Super / G1
The terrifying trio of Johnny, Tessa and Anton

News / A4
Missing witnesses employees of DOJ prosecutor

Saturday Special / A4-1
After 25 years, Rod Stewart is back at No. 1

World / A8
100,000 Iraqis seen having died from war

Metro / A21
11 household members die in Novaliches fire

Tanong ng Bayan / A7
Garcia scandal sa AFP: Pakana nga ba ng CIA?
Win a 21" TV! Text 2910 now!

Miriam sees red in AFP spokesman's extra star

KULANG NA LANG AY TIRISIN ANG GENERAL

By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

SHE SPOTTED the extra star and saw red.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday rebuked Armed Forces

MIRIAM/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Missing ballots raise fears of election chaos in Florida

MIAMI—The bizarre disappearance of tens of thousands of ballots has fueled worries over Florida's ability to avert a repeat of the chaos of 2000, when Americans were kept guessing for 36 days who won the presidential vote.

With just days to go to the Nov. 2 election, Broward County authorities said they

MISSING/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, October 30, 2004 ★★★ ~~106~~ 114 pages / 12 sections / vol. 19 / no. 325 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Abaya bows out with fury

Abu's 1st act: Scrap AFP comptrollership

By Alcuin Papa and Juliet Labog-Javellana

AS THOUGH to show that he meant business, Lt. Gen. Efren Abu yesterday issued his first order as the new Armed Forces chief of staff: the abolition of the comptrollership (J-6) that was formerly held by the embattled Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

The abolition of the J-6 office is part of his efforts to "fine-tune" the 117,000-strong military organization, Abu said in a speech at a ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo marking the change in command.

"The Joint and General Staffs of the General Headquarters and the major services shall be streamlined to trim off the excess fat. For a start, I am abolishing the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership, or J-6," he said, adding:

"The time has come for us in the [AFP] to be more relevant. The opportunity has come for us to fine-tune our organization and make it more responsive to the challenges of the time."

The man described as a "straight-shooter" is the 33rd AFP chief of staff, after Gen. Narciso Abaya who retired yesterday at

ABU'S/ A17

No jewelry, no Golez in AFP turnover rites

By Alcuin Papa

ALL THAT glitters was not there.

Jewelry was missing from the neck, ears, arms and fingers of the military wives who attended yesterday's change of command ceremonies of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo.

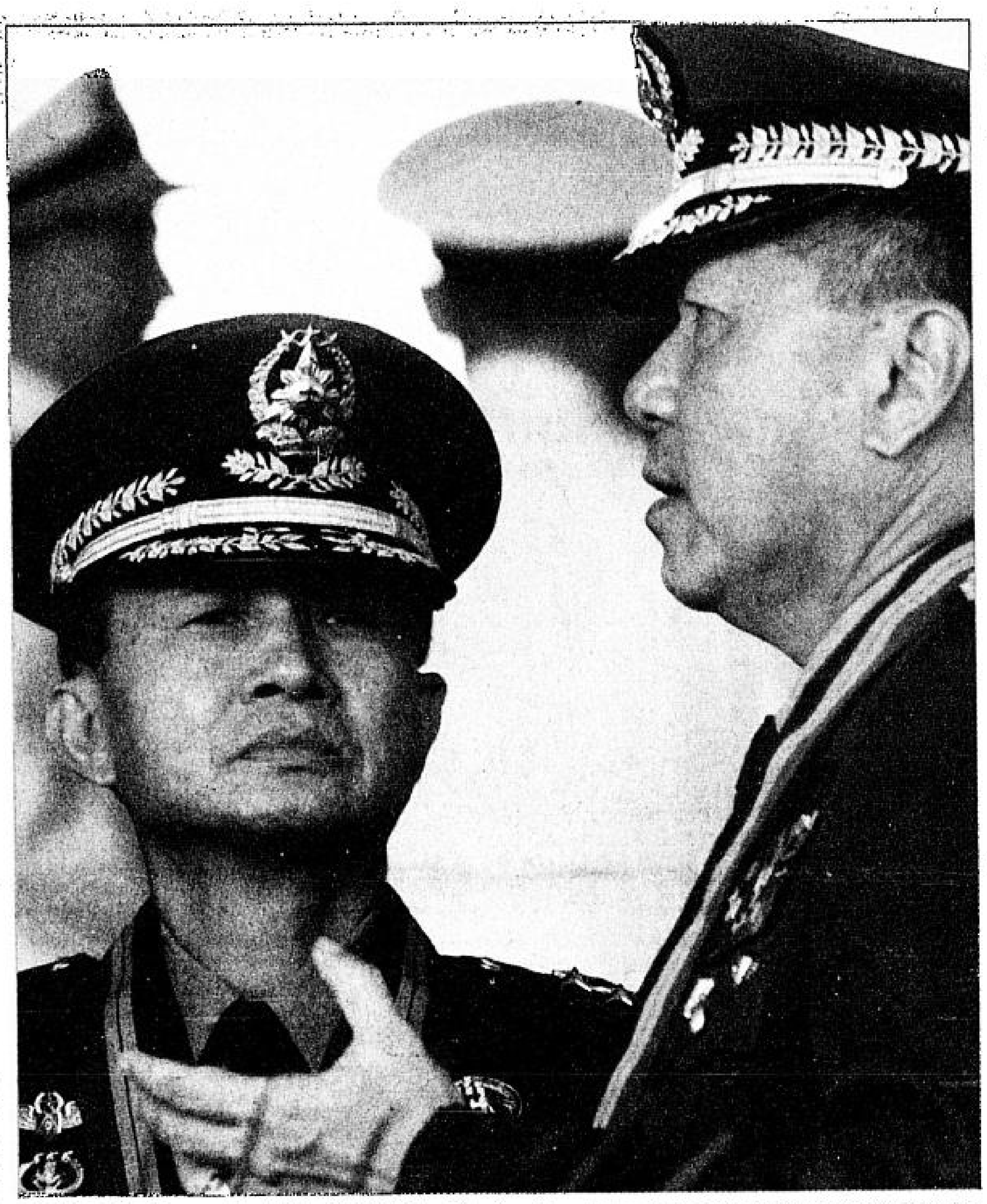
Even the rites were austere as AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Efren Abu assumed the command of the 117,000-strong AFP from Gen. Narciso Abaya who retired yesterday.

In past parades, observers told the INQUIRER that the military ladies would try to outdo each other with their expensive jewelry and designer dresses.

Yesterday, the wives dressed down; their hair and makeup noticeably subdued.

Aside from jewelry and expensive dresses, noticeably absent was Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, once a permanent fixture during important occasions of the AFP. Golez's House committee on national defense is investigating al-

NO JEWELRY/ A17



IN AND OUT: An emotional Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya turns over command to a tough-talking Lt. Gen. Efren Abu at Camp Aguinaldo on Friday. VAL HANDUMON

Retired AFP chief lashes out at media, politicians

By Fe Zamora and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

EXIT the dragon.

With a passion rarely seen during his just concluded 19-month term as Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday assailed the media for supposedly engaging in "sensationalism," "rumor-reporting" and trial by publicity during times of crisis.

He blasted away at "politicians" dangling "congressional confirmations" at the military—an apparent reference to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who had vowed to block the promotion of Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan for saying that her statements on the alleged corruption in the AFP were "poison" to the minds of the soldiers and the public.

He also lashed out at civilian leaders and supporters of coup attempts who had remained scot-free, and stressed that reforms were being implemented in the AFP.

Abaya yesterday stepped down as top gun, his retirement clouded by the accusation that he failed to act swiftly on the matter of former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's unexplained wealth and alleged violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

But he will not be jobless. President Macapagal-Arroyo has named him president of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), replacing business executive Rufo Colayco.

"His outstanding academic record, his telling military achievements and his personal reputation for integrity were what made the private sector rec-

ABAYA/ A17

Senate to take over Garcia probe if House drops it

By Christine Avendaño

IF MEMBERS of the House of Representatives are losing interest in continuing with the investigation into the corruption scandal in the military, there is no lack of zealous senators willing to take over the crusade in aid of legislation.

Following a call from the House leadership to end the joint committee inquiry into the alleged corruption in the Armed Forces—including the unexplained wealth of former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia—opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday declared that the Senate was ready to step into the breach.

Pimentel and Sen. Sergio Osmeña III urged the House committees on national defense and banks to continue the inquiry as they said there was still much left to uncover in the corruption scandal. Garcia is alleged to have accumulated more than P100 million in unexplained wealth.

"The House should continue its inquiry so that it can come to a definite conclusion on many issues raised before it, not only on the criminal culpability of [Garcia] and his superiors but also on the possibility of plugging loopholes in the disbursement of AFP funds and in the Anti-Money Laundering Law," Pimentel said in a statement.

But if the House committees should accede to Speaker Jose de Venecia's wish for the probe to end, then he would move to have the Senate conduct its own inquiry, said Pimentel who is the Senate minority leader.

But he warned that De Venecia's move to stop the inquiry "may be construed as an attempt to cover up the widespread anomalies in the AFP."

De Venecia and other House leaders said on Wednesday that since the Ombudsman's Office and the AFP were already conducting their own investigations, the House should phase out its own probe.

The Speaker argued that the House investigation had already established that Garcia did have ill-gotten wealth so it was time for the case to move to the courts.

Even though Rep. Roilo Golez, who is leading the House probe, was determined to continue the

SENATE/ A17

PDI PHOTO

NAYAN volunteered to the UN to monitor first Afghan election.

Afghan abductors threaten to kill Pinoy, 2 others

MASSIVE manhunt is on in Kabul for 3 UN election workers abducted by the Taliban. In Manila, former colleagues of Nayan at the Philippine Business for Social Progress attend Mass and hold a vigil for his safe return. ERIK ARAZAS

By TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

AN ISLAMIST group that claims responsibility for kidnapping three foreigners, including a Filipino diplomat, in Afghanistan said on Friday it would execute the hostages unless authorities called off their massive manhunt for the kidnappers.

The abduction on Thursday of 34-year-old Filipino diplomat Angelito Nayan, UK-Irish Annetta Flanigan and Kosovar Shqipe Hebibi—working for the United Nations to help run Afghanistan's first presidential election—has sparked fears that anti-American militants in the country may be copying bloody tactics used by insurgents in Iraq.

A massive manhunt was under way yesterday in Kabul for the three victims.

But the abductors warned authorities on Friday to halt the manhunt for the perpetrators and the hostages or else they would be killed.

"We demand the search is stopped," said Akbar Agha, of the Jaish-e-Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), a breakaway Taliban faction.

"If the US and Afghan forces find our Mujahideen (holy warriors) during operations, we will kill them," he told Reuters.

In Manila, confronted with a new potentially horrific international hostage situation, the government is letting the UN take the lead, pinning its hopes on the UN to secure the unconditional release of Nayan and the two other UN foreign election workers.

The abduction is the first of foreigners in Kabul and has raised fears of copycat kidnappings mimicking the wave of abductions in Iraq.

Malacañang has not so far moved to create a crisis committee to handle the abduction of Nayan—a foreign service officer IV who took a leave from the Department of Foreign Affairs last May to work as a volunteer in the Afghan elections on Oct. 9—the way it did in the case of driver Angelo de la Cruz who was abducted in Iraq last

UN LEADS/ A19

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao will experience frequent rains and thunderstorms. The rest of Visayas and Mindanao and Eastern Luzon including Palawan will Experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

COMPILED BY. RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/30/04 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Frequent Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senga new Army chief

By Alcuin Papa

A BATTLE-TESTED officer and veteran of the Mindanao wars has been named the new commanding general of the Philippine Army.

SENGA: Next AFP chief?
EDWIN BACASMAS

The appointment of Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, former chief of the Southern Command, as new chief of the Philippine Army, the largest of the three service commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was announced yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the change of command ceremonies in Camp Aguinaldo.

Senga replaces Lt. Gen. Efren Abu who has been named the new AFP chief of staff.

Camp Aguinaldo insiders say Senga is being groomed to become AFP chief of staff once Abu retires in June next year.

Set to replace Senga at Southcom is Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, presently chief of the AFP's National Capital Region Command.

The 54-year-old Senga graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1972 where he and Abu were classmates.

As a platoon leader of the 27th Infantry Battalion operating in Central Mindanao, Senga fought in many skirmishes against the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front in the 1970s. He was once wounded in action.

Senga later led operations against communist New People's Army rebels in Quezon province and Southeast Mindanao.

Before he became Southcom chief, he was the commander of the battle-hardened 6th Infantry Division which engaged in various campaigns against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom groups and other lawless elements in Central and Southern Mindanao.

Significantly, Senga led the attack against MILF terrorists in their lairs in the Buliok Complex in Pikit, Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao in February 2003.

The operation led to the capture of a command and communications center of the MILF, which also included a training and munitions manufacturing base. As a result, the MILF sustained heavy losses.

Senga also served various positions in GHQ (general headquarters) and the Philippine Army, including AFP spokesperson from 2000 to 2001, chief of staff of the Philippine Army and deputy chief of staff for Civil Military Operations (J-7).

He also finished various courses in infantry and intelligence including the Civil Affairs Course and Psychological Operations Course in Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Combined Strategic Intelligence Program of the US Defense Intelligence College and graduated at the top of his class at the Command and General Staff Course at the AFP Command and General Staff College.

Aside from a Masteral degree in National Security Administration, Senga also obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Ateneo de Manila University, where he also completed two years for a law degree. He is currently taking a Master's degree in Public Management at the UP Open University.

Senga has also received numerous awards, among them eight Distinguished Service Star medals, two Bronze Cross medals, 17 Military Merit medals and a Wounded Personnel Medal.

He is married to Pilar and has one son and two daughters.

ROMULO IN JAKARTA
Representing President Arroyo at the inaugural of the Indonesian president, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo greets President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.
DFA PHOTO

Ex-general bucks suspension, quits Meco post

By Armand N. Nocum

A RETIRED general accused in the alleged overprice of Kevlar helmets has opted to resign rather than serve a 60-day suspension slapped on him and seven others by the Sandiganbayan.

Retired Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa resigned as managing director of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taipei effective Oct. 31 after the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division issued a 60-day suspension order against him and seven Navy officers and employees who are facing criminal charges.

Espinosa, former commanding officer of the Philippine Marine Corps, is the principal accused in a graft case involving the alleged overprice in the purchase of P3.89 million worth of Kevlar helmets from Taiwan in 1999.

Meco chair and CEO Antonio L. Basilio notified the court of Espinosa's resignation in a letter and manifestation to the Sandiganbayan dated Oct. 26, 2004.

Basilio informed the anti-graft court that Espinosa also resigned as the Philippine's resident representative to Taiwan, although he remains a member of the Meco board of directors.

Espinosa also filed an indefinite leave of absence without pay from the Meco board also effective Oct. 31.

The Sandiganbayan ordered the suspension of Espinosa last Sept. 10 after finding the "information" on the graft and malversation charges against him to be "sufficient in form and substance."

Also ordered suspended were members of the Marine corps bid and awards committee, namely Col. Natalio Torreno, Col. Inocencio Artajos, Maj. Luciardo Obena, Maj. Godofredo Tabila and Maj. Edmund Yurong.

Others include Commodore Eduardo Loyola and Iluminada Flores, commanding officer of the Naval Finance Service Unit and member of the inspection and acceptance committee, respectively.

In a complaint filed by then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, Espinosa and 17 other respondents—including private contractors—were accused of conniving to purchase P3.8 million worth of US-made Kevlar helmets but that they actually delivered inferior Taiwan-made ones, thus "causing undue injury to the government."

Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro, who recommended the filing of charges before the Sandiganbayan, found that the purchase orders, requisitions and issue orders worth P3.8 million were split into small purchases of P300,000 each to avoid having to obtain the approval of higher authorities.

Nene rules out coup support even if FPJ . . .

By Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN if Fernando Poe Jr. were to chair a military junta, the political opposition would not support a coup d'etat.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said the opposition would never support, directly or indirectly, a coup to dislodge President Macapagal-Arroyo from power.

"It is an abhorrent alternative even if the present national leadership has been committing one blunder after another," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

"My opposition to junta is based on principles, not personalities. Even if John the Baptist would chair the junta, I would ask his indulgence for my continued opposition to the idea," he said.

Poe, who lost in the May 10 presidential election to Ms Arroyo, is still contesting the result of the national canvassing through a petition he filed with the high court.

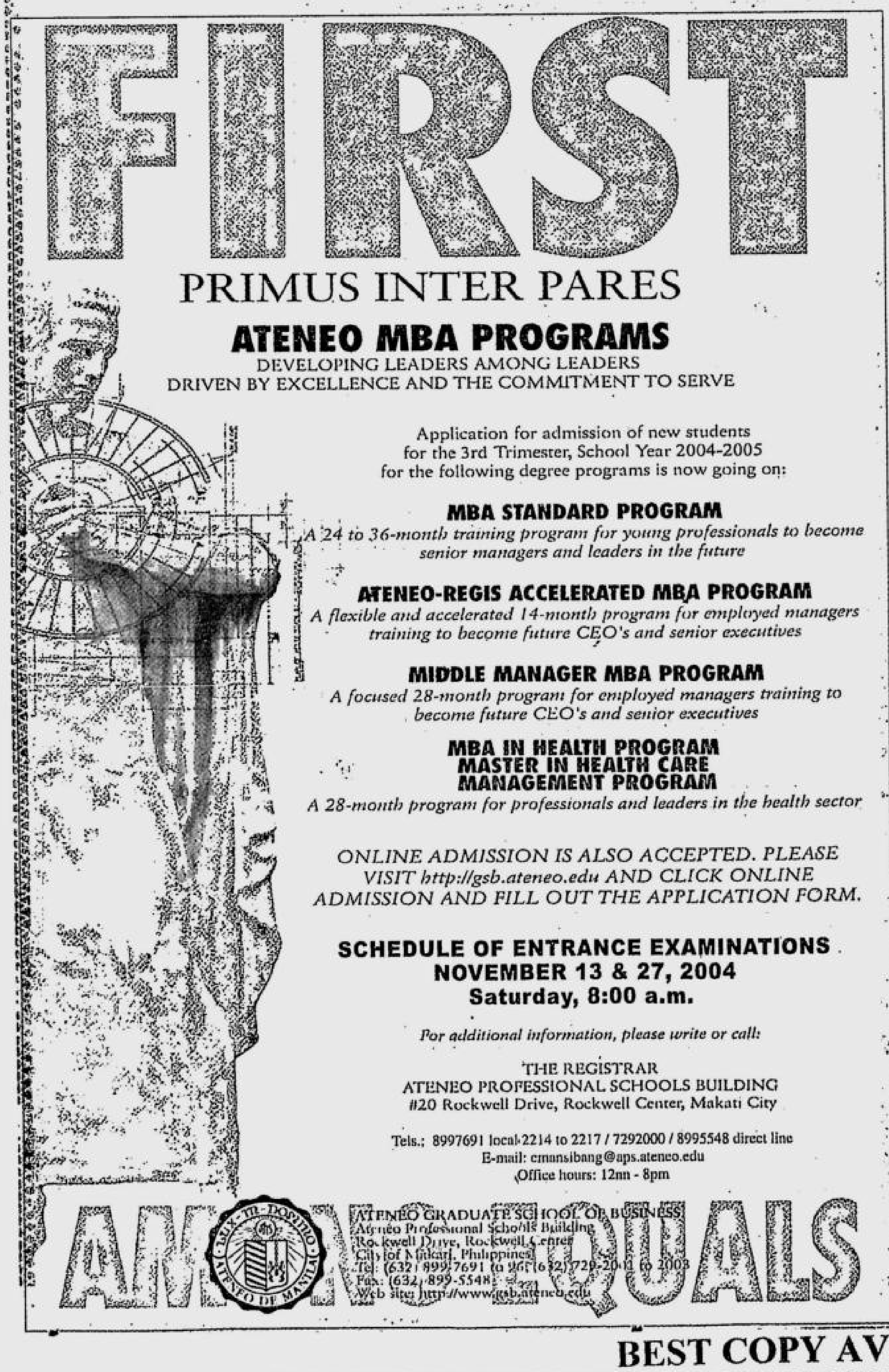
Coup talks should be discouraged, Pimentel said, because the legitimate opposition would never condone the use of coercive force to replace any "ineffectual or abusive" leader.

On Thursday, Pimentel articulated the opposition's stand against any military coup and its commitment to preserve democracy when he spoke at the 12th Annual Public Relations Society of the Philippines Congress at the Diamond Hotel in Manila.

"As a civil libertarian all my life (is that) I am committed to the tenets of constitutional democracy. That means domination by the military is not an option for me," he said.

He urged administration Sen. Rodolfo Biazon to identify the three retired generals who wanted to mount a fresh coup attempt "so that it can be nipped in the bud by the authorities."

Pimentel doubted whether any group in the AFP would dare launch a coup after the failure of the July, 2003 Oakwood mutiny.



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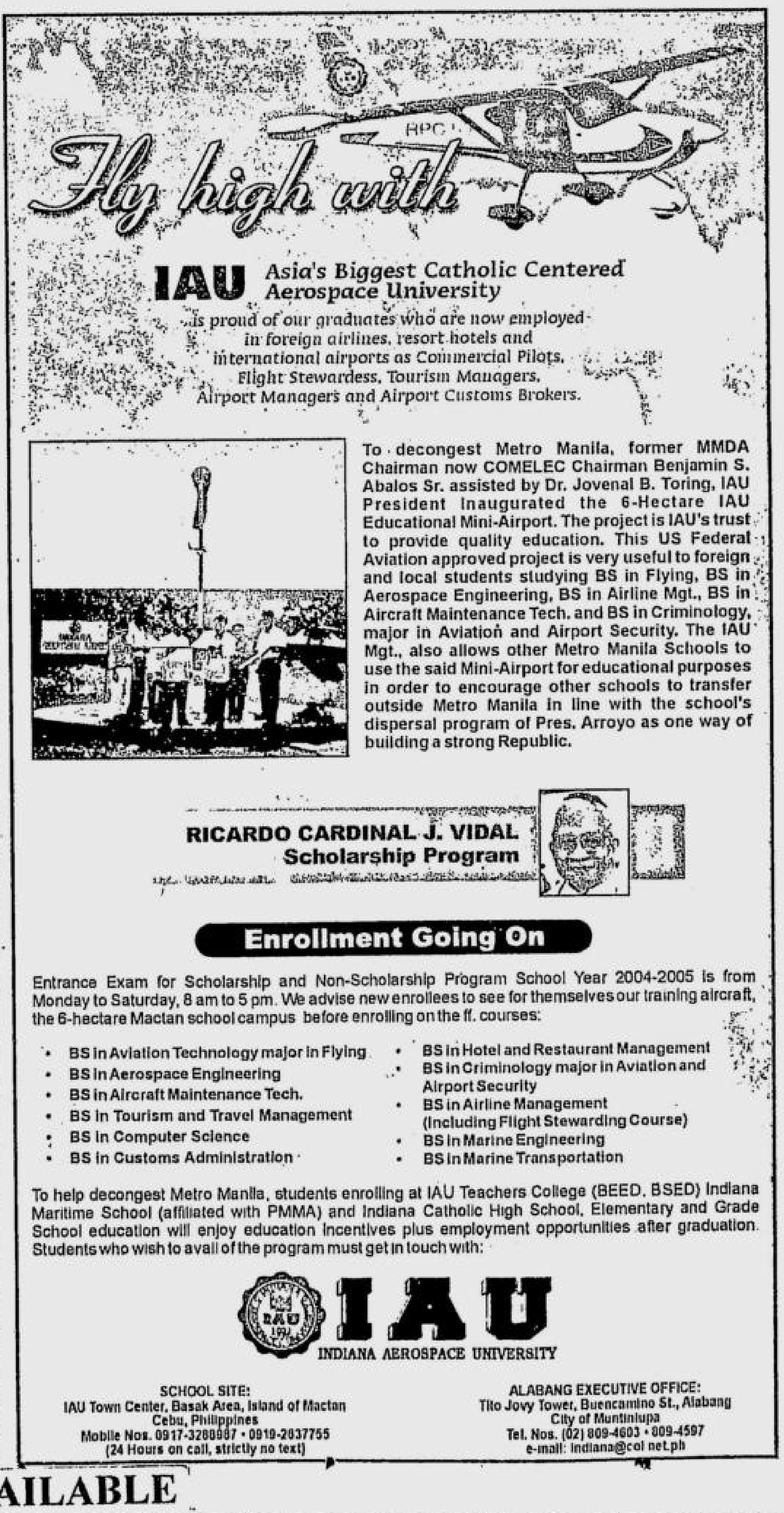

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To decongest Metro Manila, former MMDA Chairman now COMELEC Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos Sr. assisted by Dr. Jovenal B. Toring, IAU President Inaugurated the 6-Hectare IAU Educational Mini-Airport. The project is IAU's trust to provide quality education. This US Federal Aviation approved project is very useful to foreign and local students studying BS in Flying, BS in Aerospace Engineering, BS in Airline Mgt., BS in Aircraft Maintenance Tech. and BS in Criminology, major in Aviation and Airport Security. The IAU Mgt., also allows other Metro Manila Schools to use the said Mini-Airport for educational purposes in order to encourage other schools to transfer outside Metro Manila in line with the school's dispersal program of Pres. Arroyo as one way of building a strong Republic.

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Prosecutor 'probed' on missing guards

By Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday ordered a government prosecutor to disclose what she knew about the disappearance of three vital witnesses in the Nida Blanca murder case.

Gonzalez said he ordered Prosecutor Zenaida Lim to explain the disappearance of security guards Ricardo Alvarez, Roberto Cañete and Diolito Molines, who were employed by her husband's Northern Isabela Security Agency.

The three security guards, along with witness Alfredo Rodriguez, had been detailed at the Atlanta Center in San Juan at the time of Blanca's killing.

Blanca (real name: Dorothy Jones) was found stabbed dead in her car parked at the Atlanta Center on Nov. 7, 2001.

Gonzalez wanted to find out whether the three guards had been fired, and if they were, the reasons behind their sacking. He said that Lim was not under investigation and did not face charges.

"Being the wife of the owner of the security agency does not make her guilty," Gonzalez said. "But if these (guards) were fired so they could not testify, then that is a different matter."

Lim could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Harriet Demetriou, lawyer of Blanca's daughter Kaye Torres, said the three security guards could have been participants or eyewitnesses in Blanca's slay.

The three were charged earlier with obstruction of justice for their alleged failure to cooperate with authorities.

"Either way, they had a part in the incident, which is why a manhunt was launched for them," Demetriou said in a news conference.

Demetriou also said that Lim must explain why Cañete was hired as a security guard despite having two pending murder cases, one homicide case and one malicious mischief case.

Gonzalez on Thursday said that the National Bureau of Investigation lost contact with the witnesses and their families around three months ago, which was a major setback to the government's case before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court.

Their disappearance was also expected to further delay the filing of the second extradition against principal accused Rod Lauren Strunk in the United States.

Corrections

IN THE front page story yesterday on the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc., it was reported that Chief Supt. Geary Barias and Col. Herold Ubalde were retired officers. The two are still in the active service.

* * *

ONE OF the models in a photo accompanying the article "Passage to India" on Page C2 of yesterday's issue was misidentified as Fe Dixon. The model is Yolly Ayson.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

'Sin tax' proof of unity with opposition, says GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG has cited the swift passage of the proposed "sin tax" in Congress as proof of an emerging "national unity" between the administration and the opposition.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was profuse in her appreciation of the House of Representatives' approval of the proposed increase in taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products and expressed confidence "this will be reinforced in equal measure by the patriotism of the Senate."

"This emerging covenant for national unity is supported by leaders in both houses who share a common solution and direction in meeting the crisis," said Ms Arroyo in a speech during the Armed Forces of the Philippines turnover ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo.

The House on Thursday night passed a bill that would increase taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products by 20 percent in the first year.

The opposition has committed to support the passage of the sin tax and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

Sen. Ralph Recto said Congress aims to approve the excise taxes on alcohol and cigarettes by the second week of December.

Recto, who chairs the Senate committee on ways and means, said the Senate would hold three more hearings and come up with a report by Nov. 15.

He said the Senate and the House would then hold a bicameral conference by the first week of December to reconcile their respective versions.

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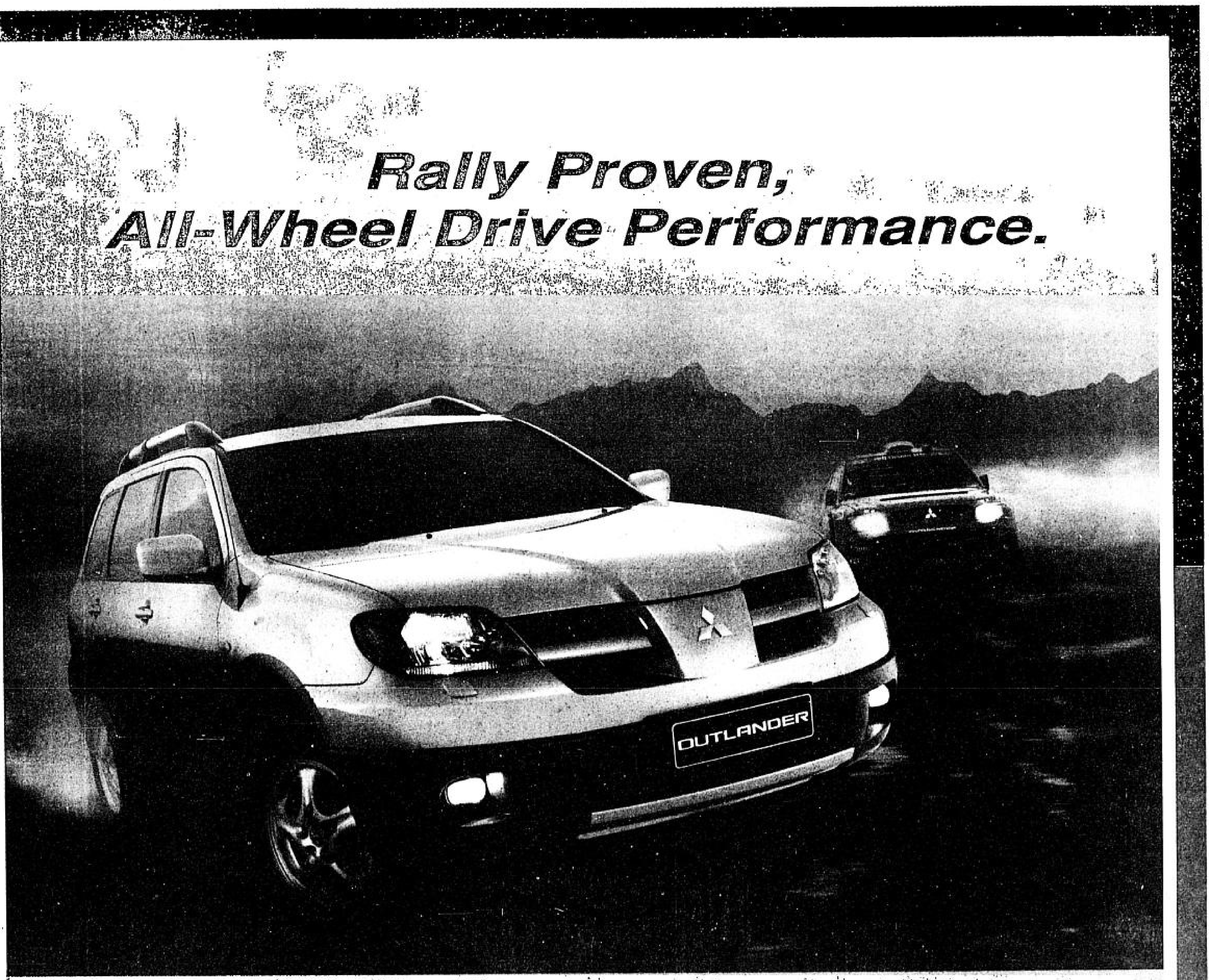

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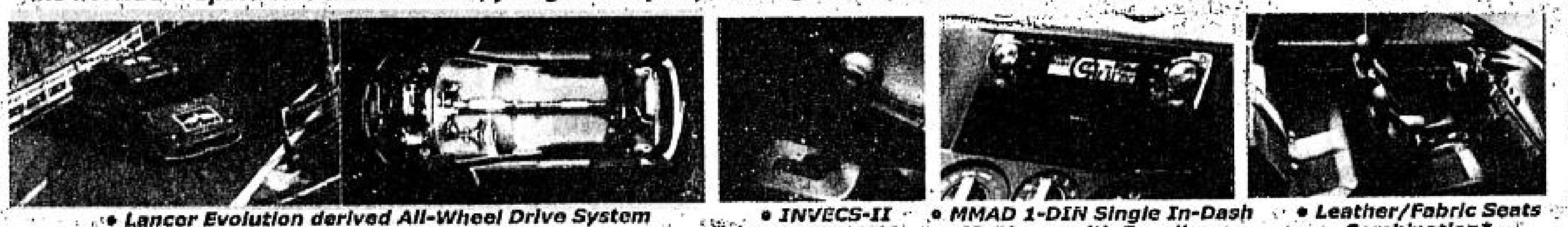

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Poor good payers, says DSWD

By Volt Contreras

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development yesterday sought to dispel a common perception that the poor are a "credit risk," saying they have satisfactorily paid back livelihood assistance loans which the agency had lent out over the last decade.

The DSWD reported a 74-percent repayment of the close to P1 billion in loans it had granted to indigent borrowers since 1993.

The agency gave the figures just as it was preparing to implement a food coupon and rice subsidy program for the poor in Metro Manila and eight other provinces next month. This mass feeding scheme comes with fresh loan packages for the beneficiaries.

A total of P977,594,427 capital assistance has been released under the department's Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran (SEA-K) program. Of this amount, P642,362,598 has been repaid, it said.

"Contrary to popular notion that the poor are a credit risk because they usually do not pay loans, (this) proves that the poor do pay and are capable of building savings," the DSWD said in a statement.

The SEA-K program organizes residents in the poorest communities, trains them on business management and livelihood skills, then grants them a no-collateral, no-interest loan with which they can start a small venture.

Aside from paying the original loan amount, the group is also required to set aside a portion of their profit as savings, or what they call capital buildup.

As of June of this year, a total of 10,223 SEA-K associations have been organized, benefiting about 231,068 families nationwide.

RP asks HK to extradite drug lord

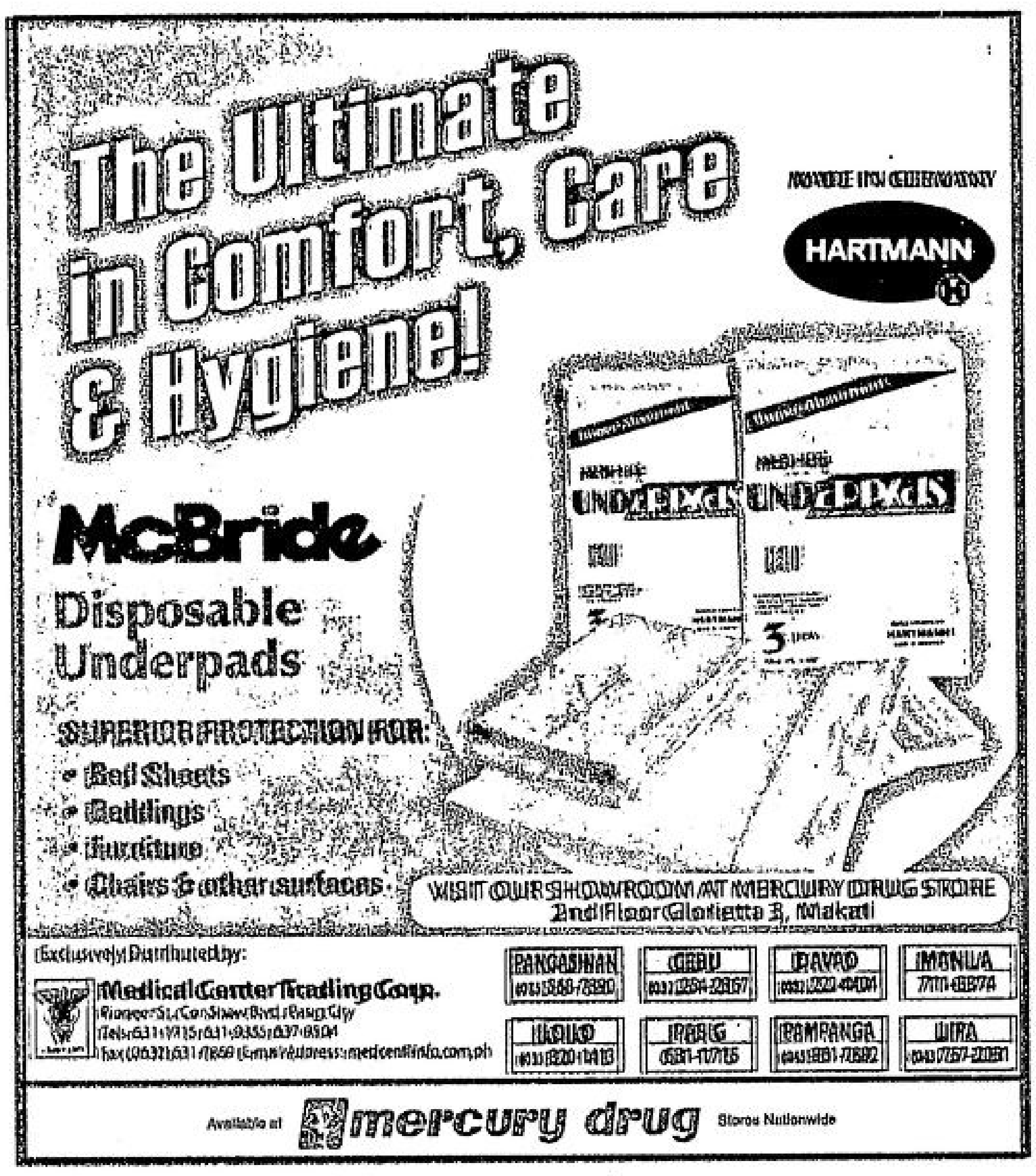
THE PHILIPPINES has formally asked Hong Kong to extradite suspected Cebu drug lord Calvin de Jesus Tan, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said the Department of Justice sent the extradition request to the Hong Kong Ministry of Justice on Wednesday.

"The Hong Kong authorities are already preparing to have warrants issued against Tan for his provisional arrest in preparation for his extradition," Gonzalez said.

Tan is believed to be the financier of the Cebu drug laboratories where P1.3 billion worth of shabu was found last month. He was arrested in Hong Kong on Oct. 1 with $820,000 in cash as well as a small amount of shabu and cocaine.

Philip C. Tubeza



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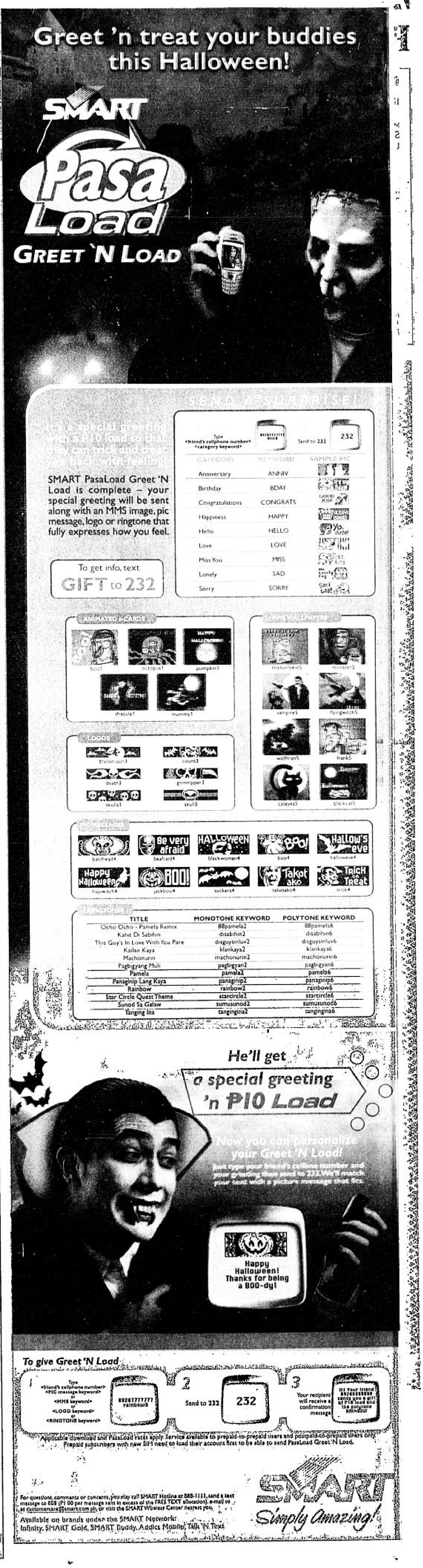

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Machonurin	machonurin2	machonurin6
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NBI exec's testimony 'scripted'–gov't lawyers

By Armand N. Nocum and Leila B. Salaverria

STATE prosecutors yesterday branded as "scripted" the testimony of former National Bureau of Investigation regional director Carlos Saunar clearing ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada of complicity in the alleged diversion of P130 million in tobacco excise taxes.

Special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio noted that Saunar made the same declaration as one of the defense witnesses in a video-CD that Estrada released to the public before the May elections.

"We are going to confront him with a video on the mock trial where he testified as a witness. That was a script that was repeated here in the trial," Villa-Ignacio said.

On Monday, Saunar testified at the Sandiganbayan which is hearing the plunder charges against the former president that he had not found any evidence linking Estrada to the diversion of P130 million in tobacco taxes in the late 1990s.

'Mistrial'

Defense lawyers yesterday asked the antigraft court to declare the plunder case against the Estradas a "mistrial" due to the "harassment and intimidation" of Saunar who was relieved of his post as NBI regional director for Western Mindanao on Thursday.

"The NBI director's decision was calculated to obstruct the administration of justice. (NBI Director Reynaldo) Wycoco should not be allowed to terrorize our witness," said Rene Saguisag, Estrada's lead counsel.

But Wycoco explained that Saunar was removed from his position because he violated the bureau's policy regarding the handling of documents and not because he testified in favor of Estrada.

"We are not preventing (Saunar) from testifying, and he can appear in court if he wants to," he said. "But regardless of who is being tried, there was a violation of the procedure with regard to the documents on the plunder case."

Saunar used to head NBI's Anti-Graft Division that investigated accusations of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that Estrada diverted P130 million in tobacco excise taxes.

Inappropriate

He was reported to have visited the office of the defense counsel bringing with him documents pertaining to the investigation on the alleged misappropriation of funds. The visit was not cleared with Wycoco.

Wycoco said that as per NBI policy, documents of the NBI could not be removed from the premises without any clearance from him. The NBI documents need also to be subpoenaed by the courts, he added.

Villa-Ignacio conceded that NBI's decision to punish Saunar was inappropriate, but denied having anything to do with his relief.

He said they were even looking forward to confronting him with the video-CD titled "... and The Truth will set you free."

Estrada issued the video in April where he presented witnesses and documents showing he was innocent of the plunder and perjury charges against him and that the Catholic Church and the ruling elite allegedly conspired to oust him from power.

'Unethical' alliance

"*Napahiya si Saguisag* (Saguisag is obviously embarrassed)," Villa-Ignacio said of their discovery of Saunar's appearance in the video.

He said the video shows that there was an "unethical" alliance between Saunar and the Estrada camp. "His testimony was scripted. He is a damaged witness," he said.

Saguisag, however, believes Villa-Ignacio, the "Bureau of Intimidation" and even the government is behind Saunar's relief.

"The move to silence him will have a chilling effect on others," said Saguisag, adding it would be difficult now to get witnesses, particularly from the government, to testify and prove the former president's innocence. *With a Reuters report*

SC upholds Brillante conviction for libel

THE SUPREME Court has upheld the conviction for libel of Roberto Brillante, a journalist-turned-politician who was once vice mayor of Makati, on charges filed by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

In a decision dated Oct. 19, the high court found Brillante liable for accusing Binay, former Polytechnic University of the Philippines president Nemesio Prudente and a certain Francisco Baloloy of involvement in a plot to assassinate Augusto Syjuco, a former representative from Iloilo.

"Brillante employed the shotgun approach to disseminate the information which essentially destroyed the reputations of the complainants," said the SC decision penned by Dante Tinga.

Brillante was sentenced to a maximum of 18 years in prison and was ordered to pay Binay and Prudente P500,000 each and Baloloy P25,000 in damages.

The court dismissed Brillante's claim that his statements constituted "political libel" that should be exempt from liability.

"Our laws on defamation provide for sanctions against unjustified and malicious injury to a person's reputation and honor," the court said.

The case stemmed from the publication in the INQUIRER and other media of Brillante's statements implicating Binay, Prudente and Baloloy in an alleged assassination plot against Syjuco in 1988.

Syjuco, an ally of Brillante, was then running for mayor against Binay. Brillante was a candidate for councilor. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RDC) 5 FOR CY 2004 HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2004 AT NEDA 5 CONFERENCE HALL, ARIMBAY, LEGAZPI CITY

Resolution No. 05-26 Series of 2004

"RESOLUTION REQUESTING HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO TO LOCATE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS CENTRAL OFFICE TO THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR"

WHEREAS, consistent with the President's 10 point agenda of decongesting Metro Manila in instituting the necessary bureaucratic reforms to streamline government operations, the Government has identified key strategic locations in the country where operations of government agencies will be relocated;

WHEREAS, the transfer of government agencies in other regions outside Metro Manila has signaled the Government's serious intention of providing needed services and interventions where they are deemed most critical;

WHEREAS, in a recent development, it was informed that among the agencies relocated, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was announced to be located in the Bicol Region;

WHEREAS, this executive action could not have been more opportune as Bicol Region, is the poorest region outside Mindanao;

WHEREAS, while Bicol is the third poorest region, it is only the eleventh region in terms of resource allocation, which demonstrates the grave imbalance or disparity in terms of development projects implemented to uplift the socio-economic condition;

WHEREAS, the only flagship projects for Bicol were the Maharlika Highway and the Quirino Highway during the time of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos and President Fidel Ramos respectively;

WHEREAS, the provincial government of Camarines Sur is willing to provide a lot for free where the DPWH Building will be located, including its facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, on the motion duly seconded, BE IT:

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to request Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to consider locating the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the Province of Camarines Sur inasmuch as the provincial government is willing and able to provide the lot allocation for the building and facilities to be constructed thereat;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Secretary Florante Soriquez of the DPWH, for their consideration and favorable action.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, this 18th day of October 2004 at Legazpi City, Philippines.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the correctness of the foregoing Resolution.

LUIS G. BANUA
Acting Secretary

ATTESTED:

LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.
Chairman

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Venue: First Floor, Lecture Hall, U.P. Law Center

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS*	LECTURERS
06 November	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Nicolas P. Lapena
	Problem Areas in Civil Procedure (Substantive and Procedural)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
13 November	International Arbitration (ADR)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
	Update in Legal Ethics	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
20 November	Problem Areas in Criminal Procedure (Substantive and Procedural)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Ricardo P. Galvez
	ADR Act of 2004	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar
	Update in Criminal Law (Substantive Law)	Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
27 November	Pre-Trial and Trial Skills	Four (4) (8:00-12:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
	International Law	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	Prof. Harry L. Roque
	Environmental Law (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Justice Oswaldo Agcaoili
04 December	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Four (4) (8:00-12:00)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
	Anti-Money Laundering Act (MCLE Prescribed Subject)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Atty. Celia E. Sandejas

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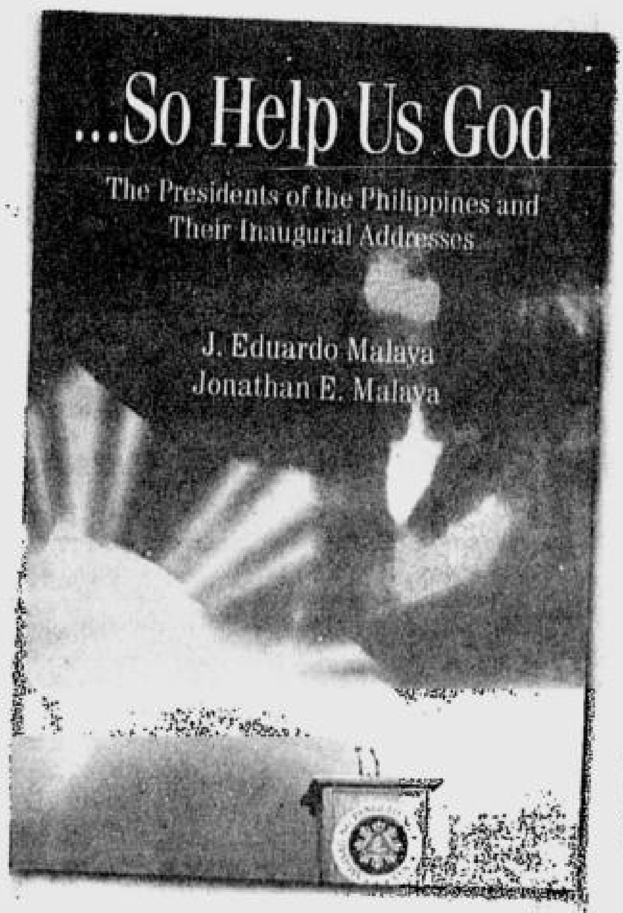
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Drugstores group says doctors should specify generic drugs

By Blanche S. Rivera

DOCTORS should be duty-bound to specify generic equivalents.

The Drugstores Association of the Philippines yesterday said the success of the new law on expanded senior citizens' discounts rested just as heavily on doctors who prescribe the medicine, as on drugstores.

The DSAP, an organization of 2,027 drugstores with more than 5,000 outlets nationwide, urged doctors to prescribe drugs with a generic equivalent so that senior citizens could avail themselves of discounts even from the small drugstores.

"People need renewed education on the generics law. If only the doctors can cooperate... because they are the ones the patients trust," DSAP president Celia Castro said.

The Department of Health has issued an administrative order saying that the 20-percent discount mandated by RA 9257, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, would apply only to all unbranded generic drugs.

"All establishments, through their registered pharmacists, shall have full discretion and responsibility in dispensing medicines, including the generic alternatives, to the prescribed medicine in accordance with the provision of the Generics Act of 1988 and relevant laws," AO 171 said.

The group claimed that many doctors, prodded by perks from pharmaceutical companies who manufacture expensive branded medicine, did not care to educate their patients on generics.

This establishes the thinking that branded drugs are more effective and prevents poor patients from receiving discounts from small drugstores, especially in the provinces, that can give discounts only on generic drugs, according to the group.

"Why not prescribe first-generation drugs? Recommend what the patients can afford so that we will all be able to help them," DSAP vice president Eim Ablaza told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday. "We want to give the senior citizens' discounts but the sad fact is, we really can't give a 20-percent discount with the five-percent profit we're getting.

"That would be taking more than half from the capital, and drugstores will be closing down in less than a year if we do that," she added.

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100,000 Iraqis seen having died from war

PARIS—Around 100,000 Iraqi civilians have died as a result of the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, more than half of them from violence, according to an estimate to be published on Friday by the British medical weekly The Lancet.

The research, based on interviews among Iraqi households and an extrapolation of the data, was led by experts from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, in the US state of Maryland.

"Making conservative assumptions, we think that about 100,000 excess deaths or more have happened since the 2003 invasion of Iraq," the authors said.

"Violence accounted for most of the excess deaths and air strikes from coalition forces accounted for most violent deaths."

Their figure is based on data from 988 households from 33 randomly-selected neighborhoods in Iraq.

In comparison, 1,081 US servicemen had been killed as of Wednesday, according to the US defense department.

The report was released just days before the US presidential election; and the lead researcher said he wanted it that way. The Lancet routinely publishes papers on the Web before they appear in print, particularly if it considers the findings of urgent public health interest.

Families were asked to give the number of deaths since January 2002, the date and cause and, if a violent death was involved, the circumstances.

The mortality rates for the 14.6 months before the invasion were then compared with those for the 17.8 months after it, and a nationwide estimate was then extrapolated.

The 988 households, comprising 7,868 residents, were visited between Sept. 8 and 20, 2004. Five of the households refused to be interviewed.

In the period before the invasion, the interviewed households had 275 births and 46 deaths, most of them caused by heart attack, stroke and chronic illness. Only one occurred from violence.

In the period afterwards, there were 366 births and 142 deaths, 73 of them—51 percent—from violence. Heart attack, stroke, neonatal death and infectious disease were the other significant causes.

Twenty-one of the deaths occurred among children younger than a year-old.

The sample used for the study is small by the standards of epidemiology, the discipline of using statistics to estimate the prevalence of mortality or sickness.

The authors themselves acknowledge that the sampling strategy "might not have captured the overall mortality experience in Iraq."

And, they say, it is possible that "many of the Iraqis" reported to have been killed by the US forces could have been combatants. *AFP, AP*

SATELLITE image collected Sept. 7, 2004 shows part of Al-Qaqaa west facility in south Baghdad, Iraq. Nearly 400 tons of conventional explosives have disappeared from the Al-Qaqaa military installation, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency. AP

Nuclear watchdog insists Iraq explosives taken after US invasion

VIENNA—The International Atomic Energy Agency stepped back into the controversy over missing explosives in Iraq Thursday, insisting that almost 330 tons had indeed vanished from a depot in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

It contradicted a claim on US television that the amount was much less.

The fate of the missing explosives has become a major issue in the US presidential election campaign, with Democratic challenger John Kerry accusing incumbent President George W. Bush of incompetence in his handling of post-invasion Iraq.

The ABC news network reported Wednesday that the amount of heavy explosives allegedly missing from the Al-Qaqaa weapons depot south of Baghdad might be considerably less than the amount reported by Iraqi authorities, possibly as little as three tons.

In fact a total of 328 and half tons of powerful high explosive, that could be used by terrorists to produce massive blasts, had vanished from the area since the US victory in Iraq in April 2003, the agency said.

IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming also said Thursday that the nuclear watchdog had asked the United States to keep watch over the depot following the looting of another former nuclear site near Baghdad in April 2003.

"After the IAEA became aware of reports of looting at the main nuclear site of Tuwaitha, its chief Iraq inspectors alerted American officials that we had a concern about the security of the high explosives stored at Al Qaaqa.

"It is also important to note this was the main explosive storage facility in Iraq and it was well known through IAEA reports to the Security Council," Fleming said.

IAEA director general Mohammed ElBaradei initially told the United Nations earlier this week of the disappearance, after April 9, 2003, of 342 tons of explosives stocked at Al-Qaqaa as a result of theft and looting from unsecured sites.

The 342 tons were made up of 195 tons of HMX, 141 tons of RDX and six tons of PETN.

He cited a letter to this effect from the Iraqi science ministry dated Oct. 15 and said the quantities had been checked by IAEA inspectors in January 2003.

According to an IAEA note seen by AFP the amount of RDX was marginally lower. Three ton were stocked at Al-Qaqaa itself and 125 tonnes at a subsidiary storage site at Al-Mawaheel, part of the Al-Qaqaa complex.

Inspectors had been to Al-Mahaweel in January 2003 and checked the amount of RDX there. *AFP*

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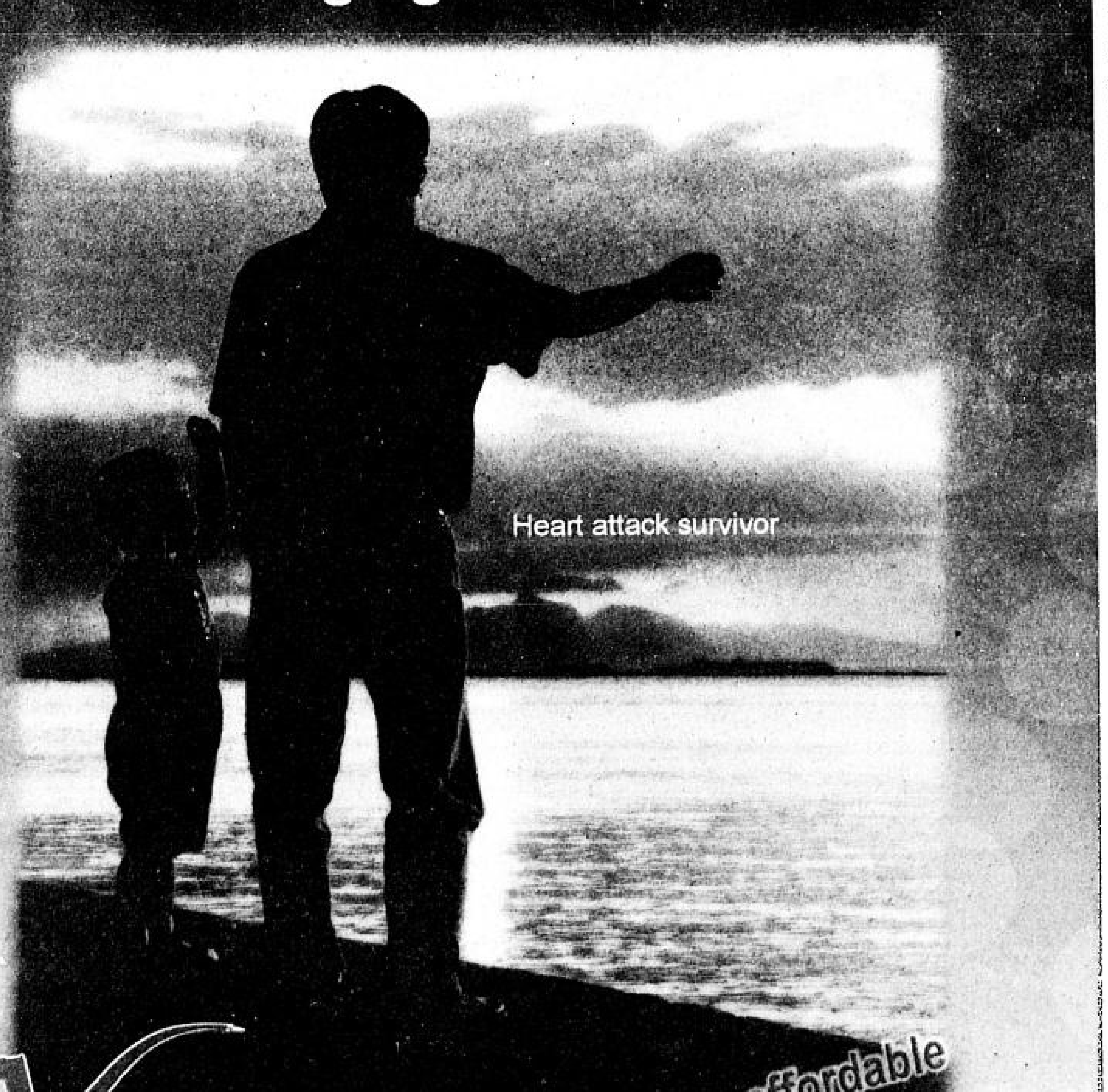

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Frail Arafat flies to Paris for emergency treatment

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Ailing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat ended his three-year confinement inside the walls of his West Bank headquarters Friday as he headed to Paris for treatment to a potentially fatal blood disorder.

The frail 75-year-old had to be carried on to a Jordanian military helicopter which flew him to Amman where he transferred on to a French government plane.

Although his battered compound was closed to the public, several hundred supporters assembled around the aircraft for what could possibly be a final glimpse on Palestinian territory of the man who has symbolized the struggle for statehood for the last four decades.

"With our blood and our soul we will support you Abu Ammar (Arafat)," the crowds chanted as he entered the helicopter with his wife Suha and aides.

A number of senior officials also accompanied Arafat on a second military helicopter but sources said both prime minister Ahmed Qurie and former premier Mahmud Abbas, number two in Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), had remained to take charge in his absence.

His mother-in-law Raymonda Tawill said Arafat had a "smile on his lips" as he left. "He was not sad because he left with the intention of returning," she said.

It was the first time that Arafat had left Palestinian soil since November 2001, a month before the Israeli military began besieging his Muqataa headquarters.

A courtyard in the one-time British prison was cleared overnight of rubble—a legacy of Israeli military activity—to allow the helicopters to land.

Israel has declared Arafat an obstacle to peace, while Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has made a number of threats to kill his arch enemy.

But Sharon's government is also wary of being held to blame in the event of his death and made clear on Thursday, as the seriousness of his condition became clear, that it would neither hinder his departure or return.

Arafat had been initially diagnosed as suffering nothing more serious than a bout of severe influenza but further tests revealed that he has a blood disorder which has to be treated outside the West Bank.

"His blood cells which should normally destroy microbes are currently destroying blood platelets," one of his doctors said.

"The doctors think he must be transferred abroad for further examinations in order to receive the care he needs, as he could die if the condition persists."

Get-well messages have been flooding in from world leaders, including from French President Jacques Chirac.

"France, as you know, backs the aspiration you embody for the creation of a viable, prosperous and peaceful Palestinian state alongside a state of Israel assured of its security," the president wrote, signing off the letter with his "sincerest wishes for a recovery."

Even US President George W. Bush, who has boycotted Arafat since coming to power, said he was concerned about his health. *AFP*

80 suicide attackers ready to hit Russia, Duma told

MOSCOW—The head of Russia's FSB security service said on Friday that more than 80 suicide attackers had been trained on foreign soil to carry out attacks on Russia.

"We have established there are more than 80 suicide attackers trained abroad who are to be sent to Russia to carry out terrorist acts," Nikolai Patrushev told Russia's State Duma lower house of parliament. Some of the attackers had been "rendered harmless," he added. "We don't know what route they might take to get into Russia, and this creates definite problems."

Suicide bombers have killed scores of people in Russia over recent years. In August twin explosions on two passenger planes killed more than 90 people, and another suicide bomber killed nine people outside a metro station in Moscow a few days later.

Rebels have also carried out seemingly suicidal missions to take large numbers of hostages, including the seizure of a school with more than 1,200 hostages in Beslan last month. *Reuters*

Holy water, prayers for new Cambodia king

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia's outgoing King Norodom Sihanouk anointed his son with holy water from Angkor Wat on Friday in a traditional Buddhist blessing ceremony to open a day of pageantry for the new monarch's coronation.

The octogenarian Sihanouk, one of the world's most enduring Cold War leaders who says he is finally ready to retire, choreographed the dawn ritual with the consummate skill of one who has trodden the international stage for more than 60 years.

Despite the accession of Norodom Sihamoni, 51, a previously unknown ballet aficionado who takes a formal oath of kingship later in the day, Sihanouk's influence in the war-scarred southeast Asian nation is unlikely to diminish.

The mercurial monarch, who led his country to independence from France in 1953, scotched reports he would be retiring to the provincial backwater of Siem Reap, in the shadow of the 800-year-old Angkor Wat temples, following his shock abdication.

"I think we will see the hand of Sihanouk on the tiller of the monarchy for some time to come—certainly until Sihamoni has found his feet," said one Western diplomat.

Flanked by saffron-robed Buddhist monks and black-suited North Korean bodyguards, Sihamoni, in traditional golden gown, walked through the gardens of the Royal Palace where he and his father were once held captive by Pol Pot's Khmers Rouges.

He then ascended a red carpet to a throne set beneath a gilded pagoda, before clasping his hands in Buddhist supplication and offering prayers to the sun rising slowly over the Mekong.

Sihanouk, who could not resist flashing a huge grin to the banks of cameras present, then doused his shaven-headed son with nine jars of holy water brought especially from an Angkorian spring.

Sihamoni is due to make his first television address to Cambodia's 13 million people at 6 p.m., the first time most of them will have seen their new monarch, who has spent nearly all his adult life abroad.

At the same time, monks at Buddhist temples across the land have been ordered to bang giant wooden drums to usher in the new royal era.

Having never held political office, Sihamoni faces the daunting task as constitutional monarch of mediating in Cambodia's fractious and often bloody politics, in which the legacy of the "Killing Fields" genocide still looms large.

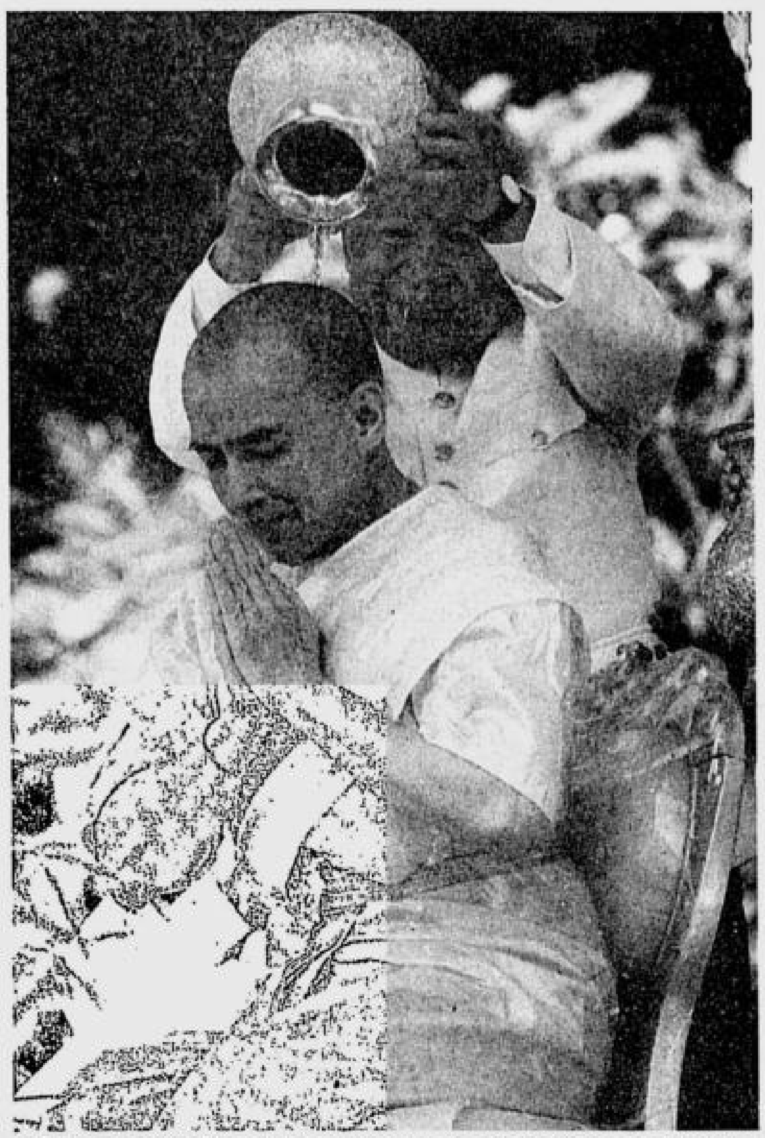
His status as an almost complete outsider could be his most powerful tool.

"According to the constitution, the king must be politically neutral. He is the father of the nation, and not involved in politics," Sihamoni's half-brother and royalist party leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh told reporters.

"I am so excited to see that his attitude and character is subtle and gentle. He is so appropriate to be the king of Cambodia," said Ranariddh, a former co-prime minister who was deemed too political to be monarch.

Ordinary Cambodians, for whom life is a daily struggle against some of the most acute poverty in Asia, are also praying the new monarch does not try to rock the political boat, something which often precipitates bullets and bloodshed.

"He is a good man—no politics," said taxi driver Cham Ly. *Reuters*



SIHANOUK (right) pours holy water on the head of his son, new King Norodom Sihamoni, during a religious ceremony at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh Oct. 29. AFP

Thai PM vows no cover-up

YALA, Thailand—Two bombs rocked southern Thailand Friday, wounding at least 20 people, as Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra vowed there would be no cover-up over the deaths of 87 Muslims in the volatile region.

Friday's coordinated bombings followed a blast late Thursday that left two people dead and about 20 wounded after a separatist group vowed revenge for 78 detainees who died in the custody of Thai security forces.

Thailand's Muslim-majority south is in the grip of a violent separatist insurgency that re-emerged early this year and has since left at least 417 people dead. It has rattled Thaksin's administration, which has come under fire for its handling of the unrest.

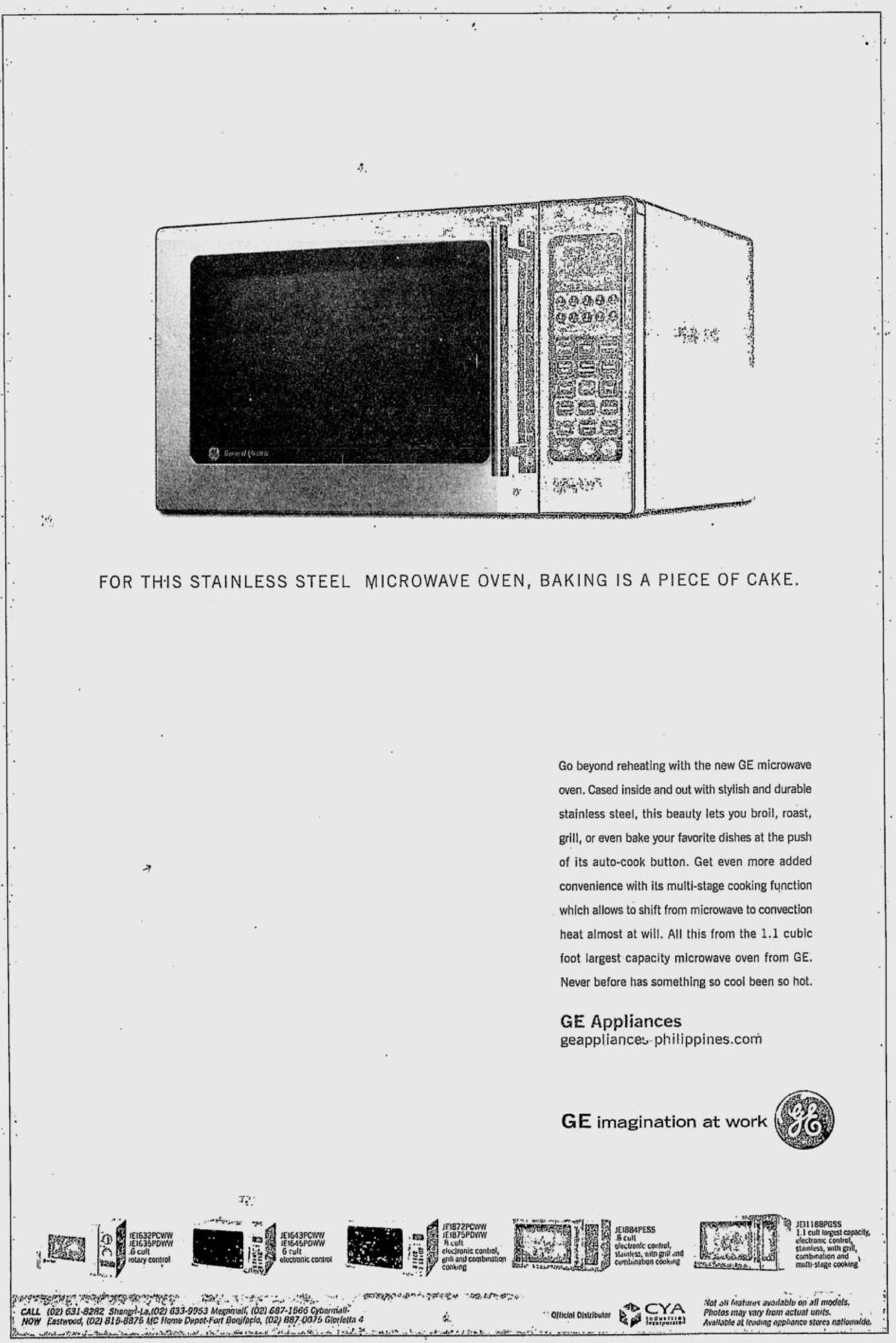
"In my national TV address (later Friday), there won't be anything covered up," Thaksin vowed before he and his foreign minister moved to assuage mounting domestic and international concern over heavy-handed tactics by security forces in the predominantly Buddhist kingdom.

Thaksin on Friday pledged to bring to justice anyone found guilty of using excessive force in the south.

"They will be prosecuted objectively if found guilty. I want to reaffirm that my government is sincere and understanding in this situation," he said.

The latest bombings occurred in the southern town of Yala during morning rush hour. Eight people were wounded, including three police, when the first roadside bomb went off near a tea shop and kindergarten, police and hospital officials said.

Another device that exploded less than 90 minutes later at the same location wounded 12 police including forensics experts investigating the first bombing. Local television showed officers carrying away their wounded colleagues, one of whom appeared to be screaming in pain. *AFP*



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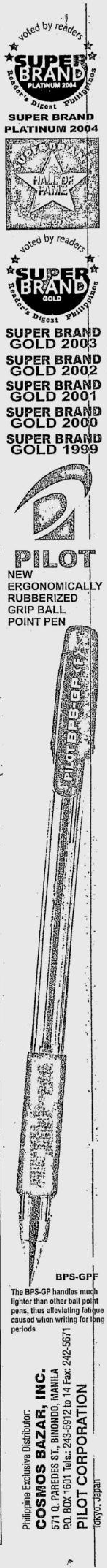

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UN watches RP tribal law enforcement

BAGUIO CITY—The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Concerns is monitoring President Macapagal-Arroyo's implementation of the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) because the law is being studied for global application.

The UN has credited the Philippines for drawing up Asia's only indigenous peoples rights law, and is interested in its free prior and informed consent (FPIC) rules, said Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the forum's only Philippine member.

But Ms Arroyo's decision to merge Ipra's governing agency with a land reform department could upset this plan, the INQUIRER learned on Thursday.

The forum acts as a permanent adviser to various UN economic and social undertakings that affect a member-country's indigenous peoples, Corpuz said.

She asked indigenous Filipinos to elevate to the UN their issues against two Arroyo executive orders that reduce the authority of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the only Philippine agency mandated to release titles for ancestral lands or ancestral domains.

The NCIP has issued 30 Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles under the Arroyo administration, covering 547,343 hectares that include both arable and forest lands, but it has yet to release titles for individual claims.

Ms Arroyo issued Executive Order 364 to form the Department of Land Reform, which has administrative control over ancestral land titling, by merging NCIP with the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor.

The President issued EO 364 on Sept. 28. Last week, Ms Arroyo issued EO 379, which restructures the DLR, by making the NCIP its attached agency instead.

Indigenous Filipino organizations said they are suspicious of both directives, because their apparent agenda is to "weaken" Ipra on behalf of developers like the mining industry, said Kathleen Okubo, spokesperson of Aspulan Inc., Baguio's Ibaloi council of elders.

In defending NCIP's independence, NCIP Chair Reuben Lingating offered to give up vital Ipra powers including the right to certify the FPIC of indigenous communities, according to NCIP documents.

Both the Ipra and the 1995 Philippine Mining Act require developers to secure the FPIC from affected indigenous Filipinos before they can proceed with mining exploration.

Corpuz said Ms Arroyo's directives will have a bearing on next year's Permanent Forum agenda, because the UN will discuss poverty and development concerns.

She said the forum is comparing how countries with indigenous peoples' rights laws have been applying the FPIC policies in relation to government-led development programs.

But international bodies like the World Bank have been hostile to indigenous peoples' initiatives that oblige them to undergo an FPIC process, Corpuz said.

She said the international financing institution wants countries to harness ancestral lands for development, regardless of unsettled issues regarding royalty and self-determination. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Aetas bury remains of Pinatubo eruption victims

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—Under a Karael tree and amid a sand-covered valley in the remote mountains of Maagui-agui here on Thursday, Aeta elder Titiwin Paanan faced east in the direction of Mt. Pinatubo and gave offerings to the tribe's deity, Apo Namalyari.

Paanan did this before finally burying the bones of tribe members who 13 years ago died in caves engulfed by fire and burning rocks spewed out by Mt. Pinatubo.

At 2 p.m. when the skulls and other skeletal remains that were gathered from four of five *leyang* (caves) were laid before him, Paanan, now apparently possessed by the *anitos* (spirits), said: "Tell them not to cause us sickness. I'm now sending you peace to the other world."

After presenting the *atang* (offering) of hot rice and strips of boiled meat of a wild pig laid out in a miniature pagoda and lighted on all corners with bee wax candles, Paanan paused for a long silence then broke into sobs and embraced village chief Boransa Sulit.

"Take these to your journey. We love you all. Rest. Be in peace," Paanan told the spirits.

The relatives of the *natsi* (dead), led by Sebio Pakawen, retrieved the bones starting 6 a.m., climbing steep slopes and venturing into least traveled trails to reach the caves.

The fifth, located on the east and straddled at the highest tip of the Zambales mountain range here, was not reached.

The four caves now contained only less than 30 skeletal remains. By their own estimates, almost 500 Aetas, including children, were killed on that fateful day in June 1991 when they preferred to die in the bosom of their *lutan tua* (ancestral land).

The rest of the bones were eaten by wild pigs, bats and *bayawak* (monitor lizard), Pakawen surmised before he himself gave the *atang* of uncooked rice and tobacco at the mouth of dark, almost impregnable caves.

The INQUIRER saw the reminders of the fiery death.

In one of the caves, burnt clothes, melted plastic water bins and rice metal pots and a charred bamboo comb were strewn next to the bones.

The three retrieval teams, arriving from various routes, were greeted with silence by the survivors.

Purtogoy Bindon, who lost his uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and grandchildren, came all the way from far off Malanak to witness the interment. Many former settlers of Lomboy came from the Kanaynayan resettlement, in the hilly parts of San Marcelino.

The village remained deserted to date, and following indigenous traditions, shunned the violent death that their clan members met.

For the occasion, the tribe built a 3 x 6 x 3 meter tomb built from the same rocks, ash and sand that the volcano spewed out 13 years ago.

Pakawen led the interment, wrapping the bones in four blue cloths. Men and women shed tears for the final departure of the dead.

Land

What should have been an exodus to safety turned into a journey of death for the Aetas.

Boransa Sulit, who at the time of eruption was the village chief, said that from Lomboy, their original village, this group of Aetas instead withdrew to Maagui-agui, 30 km west of the village.

There, they joined the few old Aetas who never assimilated like their kin at lower flanks of the volcano.

"They refused to go with us (to the evacuation centers in the lowlands). No matter what prodding I did, they told me they'd rather die near Pinatubo," Sulit told the INQUIRER.

Alejo Mendoza said his cousins never wanted to leave Maagui-agui because they feared that lowlanders would burn the Aetas when they descend to the plains.

He said the rest in his clan walked away from the volcano, traveling by foot for three days before reaching the town proper.

Bindon's clan survived when they boarded a military helicopter that took them to the Pampanga side of the range.

His daughter Cely and her two daughters, he said, were the lone survivors of the Maagui-agui tragedy.

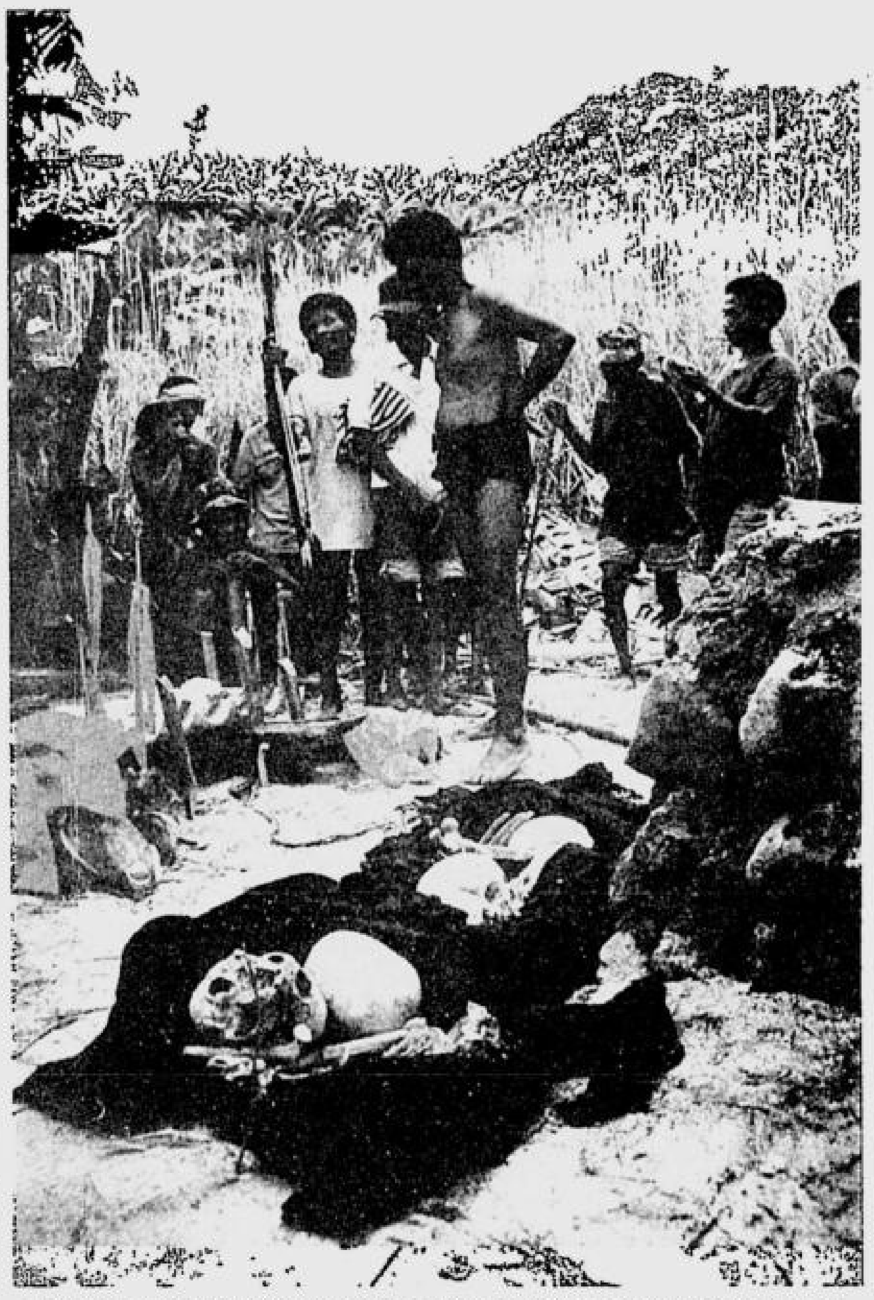
Cely at first joined the journey to the caves but backed out upon seeing the balls of fire coming in the direction of Maagui-agui.

Two of the four children she carried during the flight to safety had died. Her two daughters and the child in her womb survived.

"She ran as fast as she could, taking the routes to Floridablanca (Pampanga)," Bindon said. The girls, now in their teens, survived because Cely wrapped them in wet clothes as they fled. Cely and her children now live in Nabuklod, Floridablanca.

Bindon, like his wife Mading, blamed the geothermal drillings of the Philippine National Oil Corp., for the eruption.

"Those drillings angered Apo Namalyari," he said.



A RITUAL of departure for the Aetas as they bury the remains of members of their tribe who died during the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.
TONETTE OREJAS/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

To this date, he is still angry that the evacuation warnings to the Aetas on the upper flanks came late.

Peace

To end the rites, the almost 100 survivors encircled the tomb. One by one, they sprinkled sand while the tomb was sealed with a concert slab. The tombstone will be installed later.

Anthropologist Rufino Tima said Thursday's burial rites came eight years after the leaders of the tribe broached the plan.

"It was not easy convincing the families. This went through a lot of consultations," Tima told the INQUIRER.

His group, the Foundation for Cultural Survival (Focus) and the Aeta Development Association (ADA), facilitated the consultation process.

Focus tapped the National Geographic to fund the retrieval and burial ceremonies, Tima said.

"These Aetas have a high respect for their dead. In the process, however, they also worried over the living who live in extreme want. They want both concerns settled. That's what delayed the burial," Tima said.

The relatives of the Maagui-agui and Lomboy Aetas want education to be able to overcome poverty that has weighed down on them through malnutrition and ignorance.

Focus and ADA have prepared a scholarship program and has started welcoming support.

Assistance are being received through (047) 232-4580.

Producers alarmed by drop in sugar prices

BACOLOD CITY—Sugar producers expressed alarm over Thursday's drop in domestic millgate prices of sugar to P710 per 50 kilobag (lkg) from P750 last week.

They said that a drop in prices below P700 per lkg would mean that prices would breach production costs and cause hardships to sugar planters, especially the small ones.

Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma admitted that the fall in sugar prices this week was bad, which he said was caused by "weak demand and adequate supply."

"This is very bad. We are just starting the season. Imagine what will happen by December—we'll be celebrating a black Christmas," said Manuel Lamata, United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines president.

He said they have put in place all mechanisms to stabilize prices but "nothing seems to react."

"We will just have to tighten our belts and pray," Lamata said, adding that prices could drop to as low as P650 before the milling season is over in April. The season started this month.

Figures from the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters on Thursday showed that sugar was selling at P731.63 per lkg at Hawaiian Philippines Co., P725 in Central Azucarera de La Carlota, P717 at the Planters Association of Southern Negros and P710 at the Independent Planters of Binalbagan Isabela milling at the Binalbagan Isabela Sugar Co.

Luis Tongoy, Confederation of Sugar Producers Inc. chair for Negros-Panay chapter, said the plunge in prices on Thursday was frustrating because all the measures that the government took to keep prices stable were not working.

He said they were studying proposals to increase the amount of sugar allocated as "C" or reserve or to increase the amount of "D" or world market sugar to decongest the domestic market of supply.

The Philippine Sugar Alliance will meet on Nov. 4 to discuss ways to address the problem, he said.

Sugar leaders earlier asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the National Food Authority (NFA) to buy sugar this year to prevent a drop in domestic millgate prices below production cost. The proposal was in anticipation of an oversupply in production.

During her visit to Bacolod on Oct. 19, the President said that if the sin taxes bill would be passed by December, the NFA could again go into buying sugar.

The House of Representatives passed on Thursday its version of the so-called sin taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

1 killed, 8 hurt in grenade blast

PAGADIAN CITY—One person was killed while eight people, including a five-year-old boy, were injured when a grenade exploded in a house in San Pedro district here around 8:45 p.m. Thursday, police said Friday.

Supt. Ramon Ochotorena, city police chief, identified the dead victim as Arnold Sabalo, 32, a former militiaman.

Ochotorena said Sabalo was drinking with some of the victims inside the house of one Reynaldo Aljas and was seen toying with a fragmentation grenade.

He said Sabalo, who was obviously very drunk at the time, removed the pin of the explosive and then further toyed with it.

Ochotorena said the grenade fell and exploded in the middle of where the victims were.

Some of the victims suffered only minor injuries but Reynaldo and his son Jeffrey and Jessie Cubio were seriously hurt. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Treasurer faces raps

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has filed a complaint of malversation of public funds, falsification of commercial documents and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act against the municipal treasurer of La Castellana, Negros Occidental for allegedly embezzling P1.4 million of the town's special education fund (SEF). Named in the complaint filed before the Negros Occidental Provincial Prosecutor's Office was Rey Salinas Gicaro of Roxas Street, La Castellana. Gicaro had gone into hiding, NBI Bacolod chief Pedro Diaz Jr. said. Gicaro resigned on Nov. 17, 2003, two weeks before auditors discovered that P1,448,195.42 of the town's SEF was missing, Diaz said. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

New Solcom chief

LUCENA CITY—Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, former commanding general of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, on Tuesday assumed command of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command based in Camp General Nakar here. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya led the unannounced turnover ceremonies. Cabuay is a non-graduate of the Philippine Military Academy but is a seasoned Army officer. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

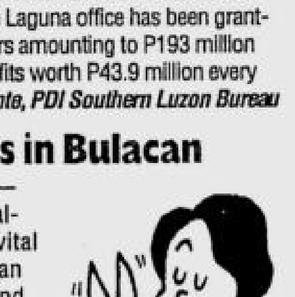
Christians for vigilance

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—The Kilusang Kristiano Para sa Mabuting Pamahalaan sa Timog Katagalugan, a group of church people in Southern Tagalog, has called on Filipinos, media and government workers to be vigilant in the investigation of Army comptroller Major Gen. Carlos F. Garcia and prevent attempts to cover up the case. In a statement signed by its head Rev. Joel E. Tendero, the group also recommended that the investigation be widened to include all government agencies that have concealed plunder offenses. It urged government employees to document all suspicious and corrupt activities in their agencies and unite in exposing them. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Laguna seeks 5th place

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—The top official of the Government Service Insurance System in Laguna said their office is racing for fifth place nationwide in terms of income to surpass its 2003 net income of more than P35 billion. Area manager Nellie S. Camo attributed their field office's performance to its national leadership, which she said is one of the reasons the entire workforce of the GSIS Laguna here is supporting its president and general manager, Winston Garcia. Camo said the GSIS Laguna has more than enough resources to cater to the various needs of its members in Laguna. She said the Laguna office has been granting loans to its members amounting to P193 million every month, and benefits worth P43.9 million every month. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

New bridges in Bulacan



CITY OF MALOLOS—President Macapagal-Arroyo opened two vital bridges in the Bulacan towns of Calumpit and Bulakan on Oct. 23 to ease traffic flow and transport of goods to Central and Northern Luzon. In Calumpit, Ms Arroyo opened the P60-million rehabilitated Labangan bridge that took two years to complete. She said the reopening of the more than 50-year-old bridge along the MacArthur Highway would give motorists easier access to and from Metro Manila. Officials also said the reopening of the P18-million Matungao bridge in Bulakan could help improve business activity in the town. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Pastor nabbed for rape

DIFFUN, Quirino—Police on Friday arrested a pastor for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl last April. Chief Insp. Bernardo Baui, Diffun police chief, said they arrested the 28-year-old married pastor through a warrant issued by Judge Menrado Corpuz of the regional trial court in Maddela town. The pastor was accused of raping the girl twice inside his boarding house in Maddela. The girl's parents discovered that their daughter was raped after she suffered from excessive menstrual cramps. The girl admitted to her parents that the pastor got her pregnant but the fetus was aborted. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Visayas

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Rituals of two souls among the Bisayan

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

FORGET *aswang* and other scary ghouls. The Bisayans, or the people living in the Visayas region, have a deeper reason for remembering the dead this Halloween.

Many Bisayans believe that they have more than one soul, two at least, and remembering them requires the practice of two traditions—Christian and indigenous rites, performed alongside each other.

Despite exposure to the so-called modern scientific thought, the belief in having two souls persists to this day. It helps explain the meaning of rituals performed to placate a troubled spirit of the dead, or to fortify a soul of a living person during Halloween and beyond.

Alicia Magos, an anthropologist from the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), said the belief in two souls is central to the world view of the Bisayans found in Western Visayas, especially among the Kinaray-a-speaking communities scattered on the islands of Panay, Guimaras and Negros.

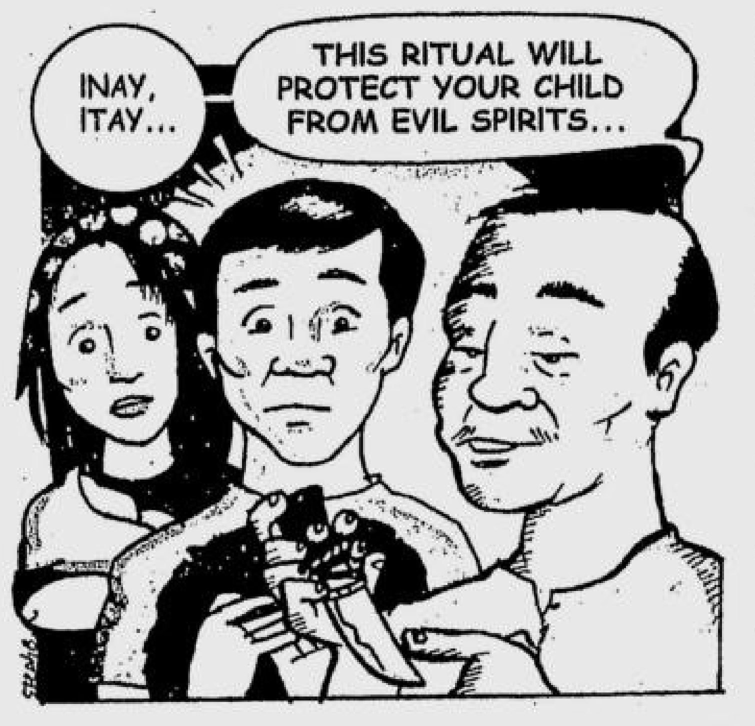
Present in this belief is the concept of *dungan*, which is the soul of a living person, and *kalag*, which is the soul of the dead.

Outsiders may find it difficult to grasp the two-soul belief but not those who grew up with it.

Some say the souls are one and the same, while others say the *dungan* transforms to become *kalag*. Still others say that one can have two souls—the stationary *kalag* and the wandering *dungan* which visits streams, woods and caves, and sometimes gets trapped in them.

The *dungan* is often loosely translated as "soul," but it means more than that, said Magos, who teaches at the UPV. She said it also means a "double" and a "will power" or "sensibility."

Magos said the *dungan* inhabits the region above the surface of the earth before it enters a body it chooses before or just after death.


INAY, ITAY...
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Wooing the soul

When a baby is born, the soul is still incomplete or not fully intact because some parts of it may have been expelled with the mother's blood. Thus, there is the need to perform a rite called the *batak ka dungan* (to woo or get back the soul), the first ritual performed before the baby is baptized in Christian rites.

In the ritual, a *babaylan* or shaman uses betel nut and abaca twine tied to a knife. The string is lowered between the cracks on the floor and the *babaylan* cajoles the *dungan* to climb up the knife and into the child's body.

A child is believed to be healthy and immune from illness caused by evil spirits after the ritual.

A tableau of wooing the soul is displayed at the Museo Iloilo in Iloilo City.

Despite the ritual, the *dungan* remains restless. It takes the form of a housefly or another insect, and sometimes leaves the body when the person is asleep, when lured by kindred spirits to visit caves, trees, rivers and trails, among others.

Magos narrated the story of a shaman who said his grandfather accidentally trapped the soul of his 14-year-old granddaughter inside the bamboo fish trap he was repairing.

Trapped

The girl kept moaning but could not wake up from her siesta even until the next morning. The following day, when the old man reopened his bamboo trap, a fly escaped and alighted on the girl's cheek. The girl got up and asked for food. She said that she dreamt being inside a sealed cave.

The *dungan*, which grows with the person, is fortified by rituals performed by a shaman. This is important to prevent soul-lure and capture.

Without the rituals, the *dungan*, weakened from its journey, may be trapped, causing the person to get sick, suffer lingering illness or never wake up again although the person's heart is beating.

The final departure of the *dungan* from the body happens when the person dies.

Once it leaves the body, it is transformed and becomes the *kalag*, which also means to untie or loosen, Magos said.

To make sure that it reaches its destination, the shaman performs a ritual which sends off the soul three days after the burial.

Without the ritual, the soul will come back to visit the living and bring illness. Other visits may happen when the soul, usually of an ancestor, has messages for the living.

According to Magos and other articles on ancient rituals, the heaven-or-hell destination of souls is a Christian belief of life after death that merged with the indigenous concept of souls.

Cultural practices

Monsignor Meliton Oso, director of the Jaro Social Action Center, said Halloween had animist roots but the Catholic Church accepted it to be able to thrive centuries ago.

"It is an attempt of the Church to acculturate itself, accepting the practices that do not contradict the Catholic faith," he said.

The Church is silent on some practices like offering food to the dead although it encourages lighting of candles and saying requiem masses, among others.

Remembering the dead was part of culture and was not strange to the Church, Oso said. The fusion of such beliefs explains, for example, why altars and graveyards have offerings of food during Halloween and other special occasions.

It also tells why rituals for the souls of the dead and the living continue to be performed to this day. And why a shaman has to appease the spirits living in an enormous *balete* tree before cutting it down.

The language of the Bisayan or the Karay-a offers clues why a fortified *dungan* is important.

The Bisayan or Karay-a would insult a person who is gutless or spineless as having a weak *dungan*, or none at all. A person who is brave and intelligent is said to have strong *dungan*.

These show that the souls have shared the earth with the living world, Halloween or no Halloween.

Ancient Samar town pays tribute to the 'banig'

By Vicente S. Labro
Basey, Samar

GARBED in colorful costumes and headdresses adorned with woven mats and bamboo splints, they stomped, chanted and swayed to the rhythm of drums and bamboo sticks.

Despite the sweltering heat of the sun, the different groups of street dancers vibrantly performed before the delighted crowd that lined the main streets of this ancient town. Each troupe had "banig" streamers embroidered with the group's name.

A festive air once again pervaded the air of Basey, Samar, as the people celebrated on Sept. 28 the 11th Banigan-Kawayan Festival, a tribute to two of their sources of livelihood—mat weaving and bamboo craft.

The parade culminated at the municipal gymnasium where the participating groups had their final "showdown" before a panel of judges. Onstage were the town's beauty queens, who all wore elegant "banig" gowns.

The groups performed different dances depicting, among others, the life of the ancient people of Basey and the triumph of St. Michael the Archangel over evil.

For over a decade now, the people of Basey have been celebrating the Banigan-Kawayan Festival not only to add color to the festivities in honor of their patron saint, St. Michael the Archangel, but also as a reminder that the woven mat or "banig" and "kawayan" or bamboo have been part of their lives.

The "kawayan" does not only serve as material in building their native huts but also in the making of ashtrays, baskets, fish traps, window blinds, flower vases, lamp shades, *sala* sets and native beds, among others, which they sell.

But "banig" is the town's number one product. There are mat weavers in most if not all Basey villages, including upstream and coastal barangays.

A woman's craft

The traditional art of mat weaving has been handed down from generation to generation for centuries now, with the women learning the craft at a young age, usually from their mothers, aunts and grandmothers.

Mat weaving has always been the chore of Basey women. The men's task is to gather and dry the "tikog," (*Fimbristylis milliacea*), a sedge grass that grows in swampy places.

In Basey, women skillfully weave "tikog" for days inside their homes, or in cool places such as caves, like those in Barangay Basiao.

The woven mats are sold either plain or embroidered. The latter comes in different colorful designs, such as floral, landscape and portrait, and sizes. The woven mat comes in different sizes—single, matrimonial or family.

Many prefer the "banig" as a sleeping mat because it is cool to sleep on especially during the hot summer months.

About a couple of decades ago, however, what used to be only a sleeping mat began to have different shapes, sizes and uses, such as place mats, prayer mats, slippers, wall decor, lamp shades, dividers, bags and even as upholstery. Many of these products are now being sold abroad.

This native mat has made this historic town more famous, so that the people of Basey are proud of their "banig." It has always been a top seller in local and national trade fairs because of its intricate designs and high quality.

Pride in *banig*

So proud are the "Basaynons" or Basey residents of their "banig" that, during the Banigan-Kawayan Festival in 2000, hundreds of residents lined up along the main streets of the town proper, carrying woven mats placed next to another.

The line of mats was reportedly over a kilometer long, which could have easily been a world record.

During this year's fiesta, there was also a competition in mat weaving and mat embroidery, participated in by several women from 11 to 66 years old.

But the crowd drawer was still the Banigan-Kawayan Festival, with the spectators coming from nearby towns and even as far as Tacloban City and other Leyte towns.

This year, there were eight contestants in the street dancing contest that came from various local schools.

Winners

The Basey II District dance troupe brought home the championship trophy and a P25,000 cash prize. Second placer Basey National High School received P15,000, and third placer Simeon Ocdol National High School, P10,000.

The non-winning participants each received a consolation prize of P5,000.

The Banigan-Kawayan Foundation Inc., in cooperation with the local government headed by Mayor Vicente Labuac, the *hermano mayor* Engr. Melchor Lucinario, and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, spearheaded this year's Banigan-Kawayan Festival.

Nick Tabungar, executive director of the Banigan-Kawayan Foundation, Inc. said that the festival was first held in 1994, with only a fiesta committee overseeing the event.

After a few years, it become so popular that it started to draw a huge crowd. It was decided that a permanent group had to be tasked to manage the affair. The Banigan-Kawayan Foundation, Inc. has been managing this big event since 1998.

This early, many are already looking forward to the next Banigan-Kawayan Festival, to witness the merriment of Basaynons.

STUDENTS of the Basey National High School perform during the street dancing parade, the highlight of the Banigan-Kawayan Festival in Basey, Samar. VICENTE S. LABRO/ PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

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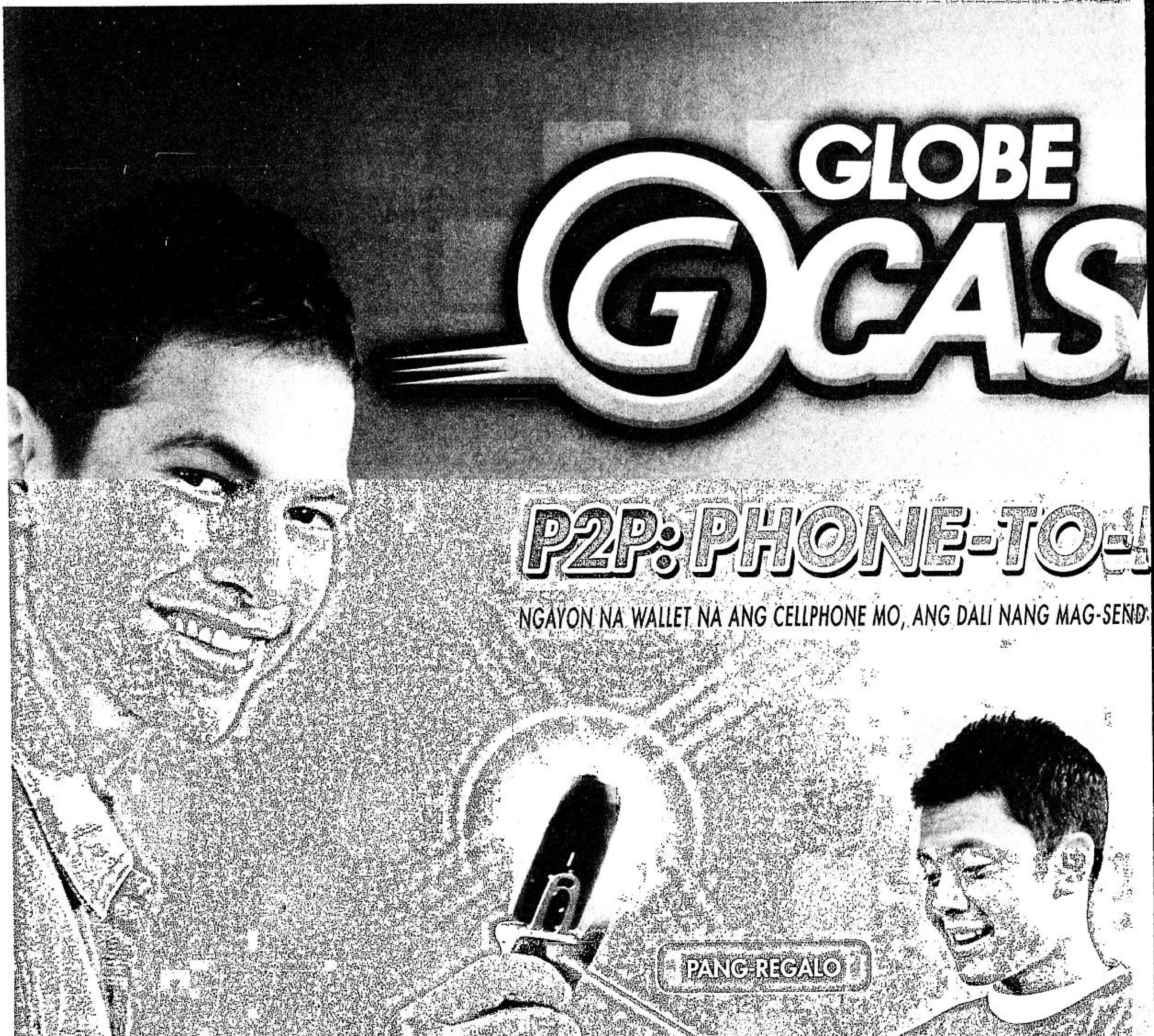
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EDITORIALS

Insanity

IN THE LAST few days, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago has managed to make a spectacle of herself. Perhaps not coincidentally, she reserved her most outrageous statements for Thursday, the day the second and thankfully last part of her life story aired on ABS-CBN.

It is time to set her straight.

It is insane to think that, in order to respond to accusations raised by elected officials, you need to be elected to office yourself. But that is exactly what Santiago claims.

Last Thursday, in yet another foaming mouthful, Santiago accused the wives of all generals in the Armed Forces of either enjoying the fruits of corruption or engaging in corrupt practices themselves.

Susan Abaya, the wife of the recently retired AFP Chief of Staff, responded to Santiago's blanket accusation by doing the reasonable thing. She asked the senator, naturally, to name names. "Pity those who are not guilty," Abaya explained.

Santiago's arrogant, undemocratic reply: "Who's she?"

The senator said Ms Abaya had no right to direct a challenge at her, because she had been elected to the Senate and Ms Abaya was a mere "private citizen." (Earlier in the week, Santiago also called AFP spokesperson Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan an "anonymous little insect," the "lowest official in the food chain in the AFP." His crime? He called her privilege speech claiming systemic corruption in the military "way off line.")

It has been almost six months since the last election, so hypocritical candidates may have forgotten why they courted the votes of mere private citizens so assiduously then. Let us remind them. Every person in a democracy counts, precisely because sovereignty resides in the people. A citizen, even a mere private one, is by definition a particle of that sovereign power.

Delusion

IT may be difficult for Santiago, who prides herself inordinately in her intelligence, to grasp the essential nature of discourse in a democracy. But let us repeat it for her sake. Reason is not a function of power. Let us restate the obvious in a way even an alleged intellectual cannot misunderstand: A senator's arguments are not sound because of her high office; they are sound because they are logical, consistent, persuasive.

Unfortunately, we cannot say these of Santiago's latest rantings.

Consider her comments about "civilian authority."

It is insane to think that in the give and take between a government official and a private citizen, who happens to be the wife of a general, the principle of civilian supremacy over the military applies. But that is exactly what Santiago claims.

In a radio interview the other day, Santiago said she wanted to remind "that woman" (Ms Abaya, incidentally, is undersecretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission) that under the Constitution, it was clear that "civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military."

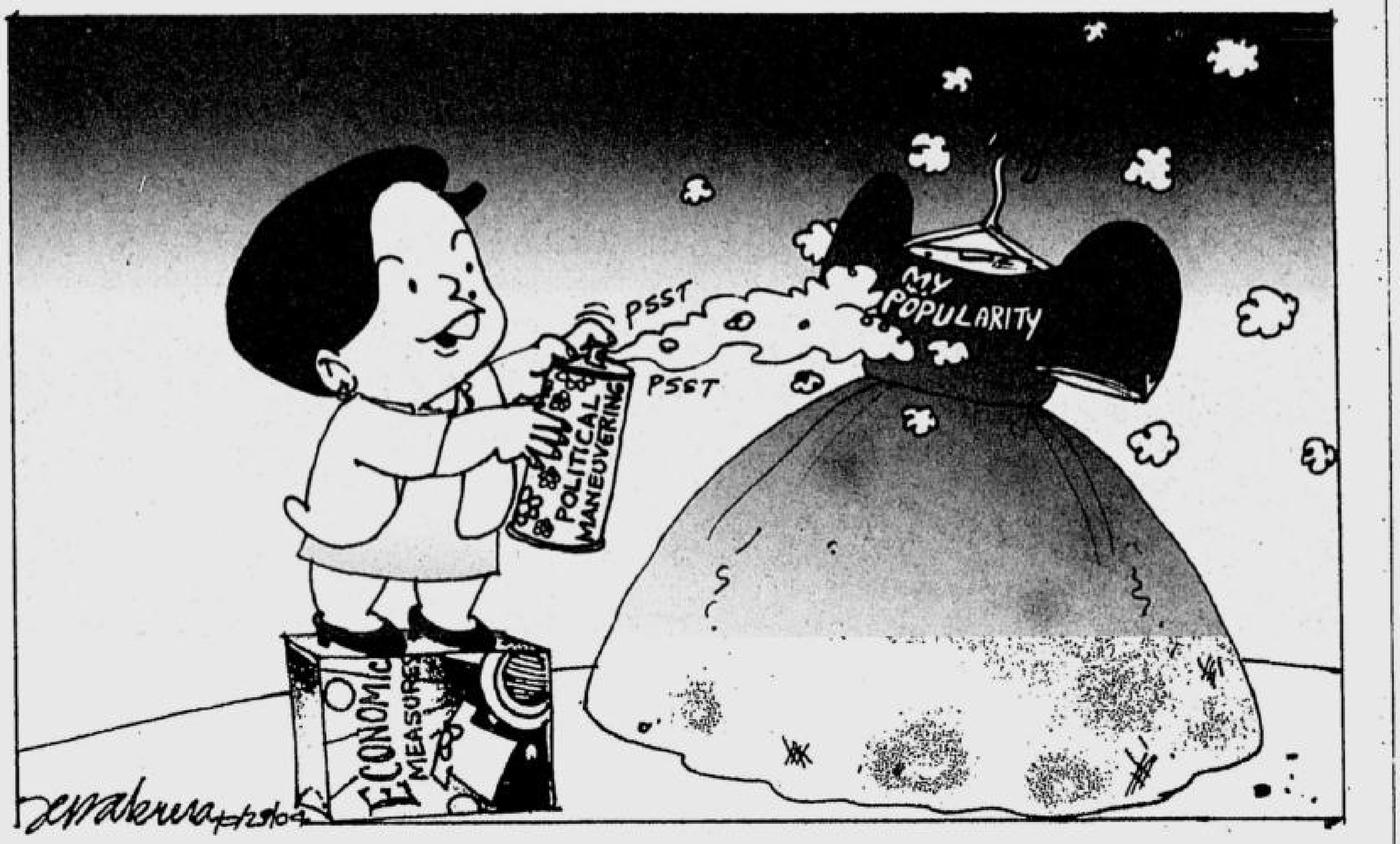
Does Santiago, once a legal luminary, mean to suggest that a civilian outranks any member of the military? Unlikely, if she remembered denigrating Abaya as a mere private citizen and thus a civilian herself. Does she mean that any elected official exercises "civilian authority" over the military? Again, unlikely, if she remembered anything from constitutional law, which she was reputedly once good at. Or does she really mean to suggest that, 14 years after she lost the presidential elections to Fidel Ramos, she still considers herself the actual commander in chief? Civilian supremacy, after all, is primarily exercised through the presidency.

In truth, Santiago raised the civilian supremacy non-issue to try to shut up Ms Abaya. She had done it once before, to try to put Adan in his place. "A general commits unconstitutional insubordination when he arrogates the power to judge the statements of a senator contained in a privilege speech," she said.

And there, Hamlet-like, is the rub.

In the same way that she believes that the wife of a general feeling unfairly alluded to cannot ask the blanket accuser to substantiate claim with evidence, Santiago self-evidently believes that a member of the military cannot ever "judge the statements of a senator."

Amazing. The magnitude of delusion required to sustain that belief simply boggles the mind.



Philippine citizenship for sale

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'M not a sports fan and usually don't read the sports page, which is why I am not able to react when friends discuss the latest basketball game that has excited a lot of people. The only items that interest me are those about the progress of Maria Sharapova on the tennis court not because of her athletic prowess but because she's a pretty girl. I was also glad over that recent bout where Mike Tyson was pummeled by a 6-1 underdog who cleansed the boxing world of his shabby opponent, a shady character finally dumped into the dustbin of has-beens.

But there was a recent report that caught my attention and, I feel, deserves a little comment. This was the decision of the Department of Justice finding five basketball players to be sham Filipinos who have falsified their records to qualify as members, nay, stars, of the basketball teams of several local companies seeking to trade on the talents of these foreigners as advertising gimmicks for their products. For this purpose, these aliens declared under oath that they were Filipinos entitled to play in the PBA competitions where only citizens are allowed. In exchange for this duplicity, they were offered and enjoyed fantastic emoluments in excess of those paid our local players.

I saw the pictures of these athletes and they look like foreigners, not Filipinos. The companies that hired them were apparently satisfied, perhaps happy, over the solemn assertion of Philippine citizenship by these aliens and did not bother to look more closely into their real nationality. Maybe these companies even helped in the deception: They probably felt that the truth or falsity of these players' claim of Philippine citizenship was not that important because it involved only their qualification as players in a basketball tournament. Philippine citizenship was only a formal requirement, nothing else.

I was the *ponente* of the original decision of the Supreme Court in the cases of Frivaldo v. Commission on Elections, 174 SCRA 245, and Labo v. Commission on Elections, 176 SCRA 1, where we disqualified the petitioners as elected local officials because they had earlier been naturalized in foreign countries and had not bothered to repatriate themselves. I said that the citizen of the Philippines "must take pride in his status as such and cherish this priceless gift that out of more than a hundred other nationalities God has chosen to grant him." Naturally, he will not share it with others not similarly blessed. "This country of ours, for all its difficulties and limitations, is like a jealous and possessive mother." It will not admit into its fold persons pretending to love it, even if they are outstanding basketball players.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez deserves commendation for his decision against the five alien athletes who have committed perjury and falsification of public records to support their false claim of Philippine citizenship. Their mercenary motive makes their offenses all the more condemnable. Gonzalez has ordered their detention preparatory to their deportation as undesirable aliens for taking undue advantage of Philippine citizenship and regarding it so lightly for merely occupational purposes.

The sanction of deportation, while merciful enough, is by itself alone hardly appropriate for the crimes the athletes have committed. Fortunately, Secretary Gonzalez has also called for their prosecution and punishment for their falsification of public documents, only after which can they be deported and good riddance. Their employers should also be punished for their possible complicity in the deception foisted by the sham Filipinos. It is highly possible that the companies that hired them directed, and in fact even actively participated in, the falsification of their credentials to ensure the victory of their teams in the PBA games. After all, winning is everything, and winning will translate to more sales and higher profits, never mind that Philippine citizenship has been degraded.

And the DOJ investigators should also train their attention on the local officials who helped these false Filipinos to register as citizens of this country. Several civil registrars are suspected of having falsely issued documents to prove the alleged Philippine nationality of some of the players, obviously in exchange for expensive monetary appreciation. These officials are liable for falsification of public documents and also the rank crime of bribery to sell Philippine citizenship.

The Philippines is ranked as the 11th most corrupt country in the world and has long been known as a nation of domestics for affluent societies. Yet it has not occurred to me to seek another nationality out of shame for this land of my birth or escape it for greener pastures and their material inducements. By contrast, these foreign players would eschew their own native countries and pretend to be citizens of this modest land as long as they are abundantly salaried to be sham Filipinos. This is an insult to us true Filipinos.

Clout

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

FIRST, you had the Department of Finance recommending that the current sin taxes be: (1) raised by 30 percent to keep it abreast with the inflation that had taken place but not yet factored in by Congress since 1997, and (2) raised every two years thereafter by amounts that would keep up with future inflation—the automatic indexation feature.

Then, the House ways and means committee comes out with its own version: sin taxes to be raised by 20 percent (instead of 30 percent) for next year, followed by 3 percent increases in 2006 and 2007. After that, the automatic indexation feature will kick in. The reason for a lower rate increase, according to committee members, is to protect the industry's viability.

One would have thought that there would be urgent negotiations between the executive and the legislature to bridge the resulting revenue gap. The stakes are high, particularly since the country is in a crisis mode. The importance of this tax measure goes beyond its revenue effect, because it will be taken as an indication of government's determination to overcome the fiscal crisis. P82 billion of additional revenues, according to the best estimates, is the amount needed to avoid fiscal disaster. P125 billion is the amount needed not just to avoid disaster but to ensure that resources are available to improve the nation's human, physical and natural capital bases. If the government gets less revenues than it planned for, because of the watered down legislation, it will need other measures to take up the slack.

And indeed, there were negotiations. But the negotiations, it would seem, included not only the executive and the legislature, but the cigarette and alcoholic beverage companies as well. Rep. Danilo Suarez was quoted as saying that the meeting was important so the companies could ask their allies in Congress to pass the bill. "Otherwise, members of Congress will just quarrel and we will have no law to pass."

Maybe he doesn't realize it, but he has just explicitly admitted that these companies hold Congress captive. And no matter how it is rationalized, the presence of the President and the other officials is an implicit admission that this is indeed the case.

Anyone wanting more proof that these companies are a force to reckon with has only to look at the reported results of that meeting. Instead of the compromise tax rates settling somewhere between 20 percent (the legislative proposal) and 30 percent (the DOF proposal), they are now reportedly going to be 12 percent!

To add insult to injury, a "government source" has been quoted as saying, "It is an everybody-happy compromise," while a representative of one of the cigarette companies reportedly said something to the effect that a middle ground had been found "that will combine the elements of both our proposal and our competitors' while weighing in the national interest."

Who are the "everybody" in "everybody happy"? Certainly not the Filipino people. How much weight was given to the national interest? Obviously not much, because the expected additional revenue will now perforce be less than either the executive's or Congress' target.

Our (the Filipino people's) only hope at this point to put back some backbone into the sin tax amendment is the Senate. I understand that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who fathered the 1997 Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (it is not his fault that it was butchered in the bicameral committee proceedings), has an excellent sin tax proposal that will not only index the sin taxes, but remove the discriminatory provisions of the current law (which, those familiar with the law claim, give undue favor to the Lucio Tan-owned and controlled companies). That provides us with some consolation, and we must wish him well. One remembers, with great fondness how he and Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, in committee hearings, exposed the similarities in the system of dummies used in the distribution of both beer and cigarettes.

One thing is sure, though. If the Senate does not rise above partisan or self-serving interests, it will provide additional ammunition to those who are in favor of a unicameral system, on the grounds that the quality of the Senate has deteriorated, and the Senate therefore merely adds to legislative delay.

It is increasingly hard to ignore the pervasive and very strong influence that Lucio Tan appears to wield in this country. While he may no longer be as influential over the executive branch as he was during the administration of President Estrada, the alleged clout that he still has over some government agencies (e.g., the Civil Aeronautics Board) is legend. And one only has to read the provisions of the laws—current and proposed—affecting the enterprises in his empire to see how the legislature seems to have protected and benefited them.

Finally, while at first I was willing to give it the benefit of the doubt (because I had not read it), a reading of the recent decision of the Court of Appeals awarding his company a P1-billion tax refund strains the credulity of the reader since it seems to rest on such flawed reasoning that one wonders whether the Lucio Tan influence extends to this sector as well.

This country cannot afford that kind of influence. The private net benefit may be positive, but the social costs are overwhelming.

US election similar to RP's

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE AMERICAN election next Tuesday is beginning to look like a Philippine election; it's hard to believe what's happening. In 1976, my husband and I were in Washington, D.C. on election day when Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter were vying for the presidency. We were struck by the lack of a campaign atmosphere then and in fact it was hard to find polling places. What was most impressive for these Pinoys, however, was that by election evening America had a president; Ford conceded to Carter. But times have changed and ironically, the US campaign has come to look and sound so like our local elections.

* * *

The fight between US President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry remains so close to call just a few days before election, that it has brought out all the sharp knives—just like in RP. The Republicans are charging the Democrats with "fraud" for allegedly registering more than the actual number of voters (Comelec, hear, hear). In fact, the Republicans are fielding thousands of "monitors" in precincts in the critical states, while the Democrats will field thousands of lawyers who will be on the lookout for voter "intimidation" by these monitors. All these are indications that a cloud hangs over the integrity and honesty of the US electoral process.

* * *

There is very serious concern that this US election could be the most "litigious" election in American history. The fear is that it would be far worse than what happened in pivotal Florida in 2000, when Al Gore won the popular vote but the counting dragged on so long and threatened to create a power vacuum that the Florida Supreme Court had to intervene and stop the disputed canvassing. The US Supreme Court upheld that court, thus paving the way for George W. Bush to be proclaimed winner. It was a tribute to the two contenders, especially to Gore who won the popular vote, that in the interest of national unity they closed ranks and obeyed the Supreme Court; but until now the disastrous effects of a "victory by litigation" are being felt.

* * *

Thoughtful analysts like Robert J. Samuelson of Newsweek have emphasized that a repeat of 2004 has to be avoided by ensuring a "decisive vote." He stressed, "Here's what we really need: the winner takes 52 percent of the popular vote and enough electoral votes so that a few close and contested states don't matter." Doesn't this sound like the common appeal last May for the decisive plurality that GMA needed for effective governance? Samuelson also opined that "The most unsettling danger (in this election) is that post-election combat by party warlords will become a permanent part of the political process." It's hard to imagine that "warlordism," a common phenomenon here, could ever be mentioned in the American context!

* * *

I'm glad Ms Susan Abaya, the wife of outgoing AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya, has decided to confront the sweeping corruption charge of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Santiago has once again trained her shotgun, this time accusing wives of AFP top brass of influencing contracts and cornering profits. Maybe there have been such wives in the past, but I cannot believe Susan Abaya is one of them. She has challenged Santiago to name names, but she has not done that (is she also implicating her own sister-in-law Meg Defensor?). Between her propensity to impugn people's integrity and Susan's reputation, I'll take the latter.

* * *

Susan has always been a professional woman, having worked in the Presidential Management Staff as a top executive for years as well as in the National Security Agency. For a long while too, the Abayas were stationed in Washington, D.C., where Narciso served as military attaché. As a professional, Susan, I'm sure, respects professional distance. Susan comes from a well-to-do Ilocos family. Her grandfather, Dr. Isidoro Panlasigui Sr. was dean of men and of the College of Education of UP in the '50s, while her father, Isidoro Jr., was chief corporate counsel of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration. Being no stranger to wealth and position, Susan has remained very simple and unaffected. I saw how she fixed up the official residence of the AFP chief of staff in Camp Aguinaldo with taste and frugality. People with "background" are always harder to corrupt.

* * *

Last Oct. 18, Malayan Insurance Co., the leading non-life insurance with a recorded asset base of P11.5 billion, celebrated its 74th anniversary. The affair, topped by a spectacular fireworks display over the Manila Bay sky, gathered a glittering crowd of political, social and business leaders from many parts of Asia, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Malayan had every reason to celebrate in a grand way. This group has more than P100 billion in insured property, securing more than 1,000 companies and posting a gross premium income of P3.9 billion in 2003. But just as important, it has come a long way from its humble beginnings—an inspiring story of local entrepreneurship and dynamism worth emulating by the present crop of entrepreneurs.

* * *

Malayan started as a very modest operation by its founder, Enrique T. Yuchengco in an *accesoria* in Binondo in 1930, with eight agents in a challenging field of more than 80 non-life insurance companies. Four generations of Yuchengcos—Don Enrique, Ambassador Alfonso, Helen Yuchengco Dee, and Yvonne Yuchengco, have nurtured this Filipino giant.

Former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, who joined the Yuchengco anniversary celebration, rightly observed that "This family has provided leaders in the development and modernization of our economy. If only we have a handful of economic institutions like the resilient Malayan Group of Companies, our community will be less gloomy, more upbeat and doubtless more prosperous." Right he is. Congratulations to the Yuchengco family, and more power.

Media, gender and governance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

(Talk delivered yesterday at the "Forum on Gender-Responsive Governance at Work" sponsored by the Local Government Support Program [LGSP] of the Canadian International Development Agency [CIDA] at the Grand Caprice Hotel in Cagayan de Oro.)

A PROFESSOR of mine in journalism once described the work of journalists as "comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable." Though journalists are perceived as being hard-boiled and cynical, at heart we are, believe it or not, idealists dreaming of changing the world for the better. Many among those in media see themselves as champions of the downtrodden, lending the power of the media to those who have neither voice nor power nor influence nor money. This may explain the media's propensity for picking up populist issues, an almost knee-jerk championship for the poor against the rich, the individual against the state, unless other factors intervene, of course. Whether, in the course of our work, we truly do improve society and help leverage the powerless against the powerful or end up making a bad situation worse, though, you'll have to judge for yourself.

I've been asked to speak this afternoon on "Gender Responsiveness in Media and Governance." It just so happens that there is on the front page of today's Philippine Daily Inquirer an article headlined "Media blamed for increase in RP corruption," that explores the relationship between media and governance.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas is quoted in the article as decrying the media's shortfalls in acknowledging and recognizing the good work that government bodies and officials do, especially if these are part of routine and if these people and entities do not go out of their way to seek media attention. In contrast, the media are only too eager to dig out and expose any instance of government inefficiency, wrongdoing, or malfeasance.

* * *

EVEN more lamentable is the practice of some in the media—not all, and they are decreasing in number—to demand some form of "consideration" in exchange for favorable coverage and commentary. Of course, this is a form of corruption, and the need to cater to the demands of corrupt elements in the media can be said to fuel corruption in government, increase it, and conceal it.

Unfortunately, going after "hoodlums" in government is about the only way journalists know how to "afflict the comfortable." Living up to the watchdog role is often interpreted as distrusting anyone in government, turning a cynical eye to any avowals of idealism or intent to serve the greater public. In many cases, such cynicism is justified, since so many politicians and so-called public servants usually fail to live up to their soaring rhetoric and even end up believing their own press releases.

But as Pat Sto. Tomas, one of our few intelligent civil servants with an exemplary record of integrity, pointed out, such widespread cynicism among the media often results in frustration for those in government who wish to serve well and yet have a difficult time getting across their vision, plans and programs to a wider public.

This is unfortunate, since media support is invaluable for a program for reform and for a reformist official, especially if he or she must clash head-on with powerful vested interests and their allies in government. Public opinion support in this instance can cushion the impact of criticisms and machinations within government, as well as protect the program and ensure the survival of the official bent on carrying out the needed reforms.

* * *

LAST Wednesday, I took part in a "victory celebration" that, to my mind, also showed the positive fruits of a successful partnership of gender responsiveness and responsive governance. The occasion was the signing of the implementing rules and regulations of the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Law, as well as the Supreme Court Rule on Violence against Women and their Children.

As conversations with other feminist leaders present at the event proved, the signing brought forth feelings of fulfillment and gratification among the women, some of whom had worked for decades on research, advocacy, service provision, research, drafting and lobbying on the issue of violence against women as well as a law addressing this issue.

Certainly, when we at Pilipina and Abanse! Pinay first started talking about the issue, we didn't even dare dream of the day we would succeed in pushing through Congress a law addressing an issue that wasn't even deemed fit for polite conversation, much less sit in the Supreme Court and listen to our Chief Justice declare that violence against women violated the most basic human rights of women.

* * *

THE LAW on VAW-C, as well as earlier laws against trafficking, sexual harassment and rape, are indeed milestones in the long journey towards gender responsiveness in governance. And they prove that progress and reform in governance do not emerge by themselves, evolving as part of a natural process. Instead, they are won only after years of struggle, and the investment of time and goodwill by civil society—the women's movement in this case—in engaging with government for the crafting of more responsive forms of governance and legislation.

Where do the media come in? Again, to sustain these changes and reforms, and to move gender responsive governance forward, the media have to jump in and join the bandwagon, documenting and explaining what gender sensitive governance is, what it entails, and what it can do to transform our society and country.

In short, it will mean "comforting the afflicted"—at least those afflicted by unjust and unequal gender relations and concepts—and "afflicting the comfortable," which in this case means those basking in the privileges and power that unequal gender arrangements confer.

To be a doctor for the right reasons

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(For all the bad news out there, and Lord knows there's a lot of it, there are those among us who still light a candle and believe that this is our country and we should stand by it and do what we can. One of them is Dr. Helen M. Santiago-Sigua, who holds a master's degree in hospital administration from the University of the Philippines-Manila and is now assistant dean and prefect for students affairs as well as chairperson and professor of the Department of Family and Community Medicine of the San Beda College of Medicine. Following is a letter she sent me.)

BEFORE, jokes like "Doctors are out of post; they are attending demo on how to make beds" or "The best preparatory nursing course is medicine" or "Doctors write orders at night that they themselves carry out in a.m." used to elicit laughter among us. Today, they are no longer funny but are truly saddening.

That's why lately I couldn't help but ruminate why I am stuck here, when about half of UP College of Medicine Batch '85 are practicing abroad (at least still as doctors, although one, I heard, has shifted to nursing). Do I stay as a doctor because at least I still manage to be a doctor, that is, to look and live like one, reside in a decent house, drive a car, send my children to good schools? The trouble with our society is, if you are a doctor and you can't afford even these basic necessities, people think maybe you are small-time.

To be a nurse abroad when you are already a licensed doctor in the Philippines is not an easy thing to do. For one, you take the risk of being wrongly judged. Some use it only as stepping stone; some make it a permanent career. Nursing is a health care profession that is not necessarily lower in rank to being a physician. It just happens to be a different aspect of care. It is not right to say that when a doctor chooses to become a nurse, he is demeaning himself. Or we fall into the notion of stereotyping occupations, which is not healthy. We must remember that although nurses are subordinate to doctors, when a nurse assumes an administrative position in a health care institution, he/she also becomes superior over a doctor. What is unfair and incorrect is when doctors-turned-nurses go beyond the occupational boundaries and duties, which is already becoming a major complaint of many countries.

I stayed for the same reasons others have left—family. I happened to have a diabetic father who valued more the presence and care of a doctor-daughter than anything my leaving could have given them. I also happen to be married to someone who is professionally grounded locally. We feel our children are getting here the best education, which is globally competitive. Where their destiny will bring them someday is something that is for them to freely determine.

What is happening now to us Filipino doctors is a symptom of a societal disease and the cause is multi-factorial. It is a reason for alarm not only for the health care system but even for legislators. Knowing doctors as a species are nearing extinction, our legislators must take note of the plight of our local doctors and create laws and policies that will uplift them. Today is the time to resuscitate a dying profession or it would be too late. Legislators must help physicians find meaning, reward and dignity right here where our service most counts. At this hour, we deserve more than the Medical Malpractice Bill.

Perhaps I am still stuck to being a physician here because I have managed not to get demoralized by our local situation. That is, at least I still get to do what I am meant to do as a person, doing things relevant and meaningful. That is, I still manage to be happy, if not necessarily contented. Years ago, I landed back into medical school as a clinical professor. Now as the prefect of students, more than ever I realize that we in the academe have to find ways to inspire these doctors-to-be not only to be good doctors but to be doctors for the right reasons. We now screen very well as early as during admission interview the medical students' intentions. I tell them, "If you are just being forced, assert yourself now. If you want fast ROI, forget it. If you want prestige, all the more forget it. If you want meaning, by all means, we welcome you here."

Being a doctor is a healing craft like no other. It is about saving and preserving lives. Lives, which, although oftentimes defined and limited by finances, can never be equated to it. It is about alleviating pain and improving quality of life where death is eventually inevitable. That's what gives our profession its value. Its dignity. Its uniqueness. It is about caring for lives of key people who can do something for the society that nobody else can. It is about caring for the life of a creature that may be the very least to society but most valuable to God.

Fixing the body or the mind, a doctor, whether he likes it or not, touches even the emotion and the spirit. That's what gives it its almost magical dimension. It is a science as well as an art. And to perform this craft where it is most needed and called for gives it its greater essence.

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Where's the heart?

YOUNG BLOOD

Mary Tyrene L. Delgado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHAT can I say about a 23-year-old boy who died? His death wasn't romantic. It was tragic.

It was on a Thursday afternoon, right after returning from my break, when I received a text message which read, "...patay na c aron." I am not sure if it was really obscenely cold in the office, but at that instant, I felt like the temperature at the exact spot where I was seated had dropped close to zero. My entire body began to shiver. There was no one with whom I could share my grief.

Almost a month earlier, my mom and I visited Aaron in the hospital. I had been told two days before that he had problems with his heart—literally, that is.

Now, I often have these pseudo-chitchats in my mind. It's my way of testing the words I'm about to say, some kind of a prototype conversation. Anyway, if someone heard me then, he'd probably have smacked me on the head for thinking like a complete idiot. Because I thought, "Boy, you look sick."

An annoyed little voice inside my head replied, "He should. He is sick."

And indeed he was.

Aaron and I had known each other for 11 years, but we were never friends. We never became friends. We hadn't even had a decent five-minute conversation ever.

Our connection is bound by the same element that holds together the members of a normal family: oblique, filial love. (Note that in my vocabulary "normal," when pertaining to "family," is synonymous to "dysfunctional," which explains the "bond" despite the lack of "talk.")

Look at it this way: Aaron was like a brother to me. And now that he's gone, I feel like I've lost a brother.

But don't be fooled. We never had those warm brotherly-sisterly times together. We just knew that in some unexplainable way, we were related. However, our interaction was limited to *"Kakain na," "Ang mommy ko (mo)?" "Oo nga, no?" "Hindi ko alam," "Sige."* You get the picture.

We once spent a youthful summer together, though. Along with my siblings and his sibling, we joined a volleyball league held in the street where my family and his family used to live. He hated me for missing points by not running after the ball. I hated him back for being harsh.

Sometimes, I thought that he was crazy. That same summer, he hit his chin on the edge of a table. It bled so much that his mom rushed him to the hospital. The moment he stepped out of the emergency room with a stitched chin, he shouted out with a matching gesture, "Superman!"

Despite that, I'd still say he wasn't the worst kid his age, but I know he wasn't the best student his age either. He went to school for the fun of it, not for the need of it. There was even a time when I doubted if he could read 1,000 different words or even write his own name. It's mean of me, I know. It's just that I wondered why even if we started high school together (we attended different schools, though), he seemed to have been trapped there.

We parted ways when his family moved to the province. Little did I know that I would have the opportunity to be with them frequently during my college years. I ended up attending a university in the same province where they had transferred.

He would drive his mom to my dormitory for leisurely visits. Sometimes I was the one who went to their house.

I did not see him or the rest of his family for a while when I decided to be like him temporarily. (Translation: I took the time off from school, too.) Later, I learned that he got his girlfriend pregnant after he told my Ate, over the phone, that he was in the house of his *"biyenan."* He said it like it was a joke.

At 18, he became a dad to a boy who looked exactly like him.

We grew up.

He grew up. He used to be shorter than me, but I soon noticed that he was already inches taller.

I grew up. I managed to convince myself that school was important. I finished college.

He didn't.

We both grew up in two different ways. Aaron was the picture of a carefree *kabataan*. He went through his day without any realistic plans for his future. He lived like Peter Pan, at least as far as I knew. Which made it hard for me to see him, for the first time, sort of deflated in a hospital bed.

I guess, he found himself a comfortable position when he decided to give us a basic lesson in anatomy. He said, *"Nandito pala ang puso,"* pointing to the left side of his stomach.

His Kuya and I laughed.

He was serious. *"Nung inexamine ako sa E.R., dito nila pinakinggan ang tibok ng puso ko,"* he explained.

I quipped, *"Nalipat na pala ang puso? Ay kaya 'yan masakit."*

I thought it was really funny.

The doctors were supposed to repair the two valves in Aaron's heart, but due to complications, they fixed three. Aaron fought with all his will but his body lost. Two days after the operation, his freshly mended heart stopped beating.

Upon learning that he was gone, the first thing that popped inside my head was the idea that he could have died without knowing where his heart was. It made me sad.

I wonder if I'll die that way, too, expiring without knowing where my heart really is. I don't know which one is worse, dying without knowing where your heart is or living without knowing where it is.

The last time I saw Aaron alive, he asked me to accompany him to the hospital recovery room where a nurse was taking him. He was scheduled to watch a video explaining what happens to a patient after undergoing an open-heart surgery. I doubt if he watched it at all. He kept on vomiting air the whole time. He barely ate anything so he barely threw up anything.

I knew that no matter how unserious a person he used to be, he was definitely seriously ill.

I never comforted Aaron or gave him any concrete form of moral support during my last visit. I didn't know how. I'm just not good at easing people's pain—at least, people who are suffering from first-degree pain.

I left without bidding him goodbye. I left without letting him know where his heart was. But maybe I wasn't meant to do so.

When I think about it now, I don't think I am entirely sure where people's hearts are. I do not even know where mine is.

Mary Tyrene L. Delgado, 24, is a communication arts graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

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Wrong solution to crisis in medical profession

THE PLAN proposed by Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan to "regulate" the "exodus" of Filipino doctors and nurses may be well-intentioned but it is ill-conceived and grossly unfair to them.

Like everyone else, these doctors and nurses are merely seeking a better life for themselves and their children. They apply for jobs abroad simply because the jobs that are offered to them here do not compensate them properly for their skills and training. The way to keep them in the country is for those who desire their services to pay them enough. It would be unreasonable and oppressive to force them to stay in this country by making it difficult for them to leave or by imposing conditions on countries that want to hire them. That solution is out-and-out discriminatory. By what right should we prevent any of our citizens from trying to better his or her lot? These people invested time and resources in their education and training; why should anyone begrudge them the right to reap a fair reward for this?

Besides, I think that Dr. Galvez-Tan fails to see that his solution is extremely short-sighted. If doctors and nurses are prevented from leaving the country, then the number of Filipinos taking up nursing would drop to almost nothing (as it did in the mid-'90s when there were few overseas jobs for nurses). The only reason many Filipinos are taking nursing today is the surge in overseas recruitment (particularly for the United Kingdom and Ireland) beginning in 1999. Let's face it: enrollment (in some courses) is driven mainly by overseas demand. The benefit for the country is that, invariably, more people will get educated and trained than will be hired for jobs abroad. Thus, the demand for, say, Filipino nursing skills by other countries really leads (almost paradoxically) to more nursing skills being available in this country.

Essentially, the exodus of Filipino skilled workers (nurses, teachers, engineers, programmers, etc.) to other countries means that we are able to export our educational and training services to these other countries. This is a good—not a bad—thing, Let us not kill this thriving export business. We have so few of them. We must realize that regulation and poorly thought-out initiatives (like that of Dr. Galvez-Tan) are already making this industry lose its market share not only to Asian countries, like India, China, Thailand and Vietnam, but also to the Eastern European countries. If we lose out, the Philippines will definitely be worse off.

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GMA scared of red flags

IN THE INQUIRER'S item last Oct. 14, President Macapagal-Arroyo said "when the red flags start coming out and demanding the ouster of anybody, that's the least effective thing." The President stated these words in response to the clamor for the ouster of Winston Garcia from the Government Service Insurance System.

With those words, Ms Arroyo insulted people's organizations which use red flags to identify their militant and progressive character.

Though she had asked the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate Garcia, Ms Arroyo is actually trying to save him by using the red scare to discredit the people and groups legitimately campaigning for his ouster. It is widely believed that Ms Arroyo is soft on Garcia because the GSIS head helped Ms Arroyo to win in Cebu in the last elections.

Anyway, I would like to ask the President, what's wrong with the red flag? Why is she so allergic to it? Is Ms Arroyo afraid of the symbol and message of that color?

May I remind the President that our hero Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan used the red flag as a symbol of the Filipino people's revolutionary struggle for national liberation and democracy against Spanish colonialism and, later, against US imperialism.

Ms Arroyo should know that the majority of the groups that fought hard against the corrupt Estrada administration and catapulted her to the presidency used the red flag.

I think Ms Arroyo hates the red flag groups, especially those espousing genuine freedom and democracy, because she is afraid that—with the deepening fiscal crisis and hunger our people have been made to suffer by her unparalleled subservience to foreign interests, coupled with her administration's brazen corruption—the Filipino people, especially the poor, will march once again on the streets and rally around these progressive red flag groups and, like what the people did to the corrupt Estrada regime in 2001, oust her.

—**GEORGE F. SAN MATEO,**
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'Yabang' plates

IT seems many people, gullible as they are, become suckers when it comes to get-rich-quick schemes, easier way to enter heaven, instant ways to achieve beauty and proportion and, now, bringing prestige.

Look at the proliferation of pyramid scams, illegal recruitment agencies, religious sects and change-that-look clinics.

I admire the versatility and creativeness of the people behind the "vanity plates" (translation: "*yabang* plates") idea. They tickle the vanity of some people to raise funds (*kuno*) to ease the fiscal crisis. Again, I admire their truthfulness by using the word "vanity."

Sporting these vanity plates on their flashy cars could invite holdupmen, kidnappers, hoodlums and bad elements. It is like saying "Hey, look, I am rich. I can afford to buy P50,000 to P150,000 plates." From the hoodlums, the obvious answer would be "*Pare, sobrang yaman ito. Tirahin natin* (This one is super-rich. Let's get him)."

I can only hope I am wrong, but expect our police to add more crimes to their list.

—**RICARDO D. DIZON,**
28 Molave St.,
Marikina Heights, Marikina City

An NFA for social service, not for profit

IN THE LIGHT of criticisms against the "losses" of the National Food Authority, please allow us to explain:

As a government corporation, the NFA's mandates—food security during emergencies and calamities; and rice supply and price stabilization—are focused on social service rather than income-generation.

To ensure food security, the NFA maintains a rice buffer stock all over the country equivalent to 15 days national consumption or about 400,000 metric tons. These are stored in strategically located warehouses so that when a calamity strikes, people in affected areas will have access to the basic staple.

Supply and price stabilization on the other hand, is done by buying palay in surplus-producing provinces and by distributing rice in deficit areas.

In the last four years (2000 to 2003), the NFA released a total of 393,822 bags of rice for victims of natural calamities through various relief agencies.

Palay production is the livelihood of more than two million Filipinos, most of whom are marginal farmers. On the other hand, rice is the nation's staple food. It constitutes about 10-20 percent of the average Filipino family's consumption expenditure.

Because the majority of Filipinos buy food on a daily basis, the stability of rice prices is crucial in ensuring that the poor man's budget can afford to buy what is needed to survive.

Although a government-owned and -controlled corporation, the NFA is no different from the usual government agencies designed to provide service to the people. Its only advantage as a government corporation is the flexibility in its financial transactions. When budgetary allotment is delayed, the agency can borrow from banks to finance its operations. It can also use its revenues to effectively respond to urgent situations, such as calamities, and to go into domestic palay procurement when farm gate prices suddenly drop. If the NFA had to rely solely on congressional allocation, which is generally lower than what is actually needed, it may never be able to effectively exercise its mandates in a timely manner.

The NFA agrees that it cannot cling to the status quo. As early as 2001, its management initiated a study on how to effectively reengineer the agency to make it more suitable and responsive to present needs. A product of this endeavor is a proposed bill now awaiting Congress' approval.

The question of whether or not the NFA is still relevant should boil down to whether or not its mandates are still important for the country and the public. We appreciate Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin's view that the NFA's case is different from other GOCCs because it is government's policy to subsidize—not make money from its mandates of food security and stabilization. We are happy some lawmakers and opinion makers have expressed similar enlightened views on this social role of the NFA.

—**REX C. ESTOPEREZ,**
director,
Public Affairs Department,
National Food Authority,
Matimyas Bldg.,
101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City

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Abaya bows out with fury, lashes out at media, pols

From page A1

ommend to me that he should be the president of an important government corporation," Ms Arroyo said in a speech during the turnover ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo.

Abaya's new post, however, will pit him directly against fellow retired generals and their families, who are waging a legal battle with the BCDA for the P12-billion property of the Joint US Military Advisory Group (Jusmag) in Fort Bonifacio.

Catching fire

In his farewell speech, Abaya said the media had been fueling the crisis instead of helping the AFP resolve the raging corruption scandal.

"Coup attempts, like corruption scandals, have a way of catching fire, destroying reputations and destabilizing institutions, especially with the sensationalism that has come to characterize the media," he said.

Turning his eyes on reporters covering the turnover ceremonies, he said: "I do not have a prescription, but let me paraphrase the [Davide] Commission's recommendation: 'The resolution of the dilemma faced by media in crisis reporting lies more in the media itself rather than government regulations ... Because the preferred option is self-regulation and self-discipline, media should proceed with their initiatives in formulating their own ethical standards.'"

Abaya also chided "fellow workers" in the government who would "insinuate" that the military was intentionally prolonging the fight against insurgency "because war-fighting has become a money-making business."

"It is an insult to our fighting troops when the [AFP] is solely blamed for the resurrection of a multi-dimensional problem like insurgency," he said. "It is cruel to fault the AFP's right-hand efforts when civilian counterparts fall short in the left-hand effort of delivering services, resulting in the failure to preserve and build on the gains, paid for by the blood of the Filipino soldier."

Addressing the President, Abaya said he had assumed the post as AFP chief with her "profuse praise."

"But I know that I will be leaving this office scorned either by those who were adversely affected by our reforms, or those whose high expectations they felt I failed to measure up to," he said.

He added in a voice full of emotion: "But I have never aspired to be popular, or to be great. And in the twilight of my career, I am contented with the thought that I did my duty to the best of my abilities."

High spirits

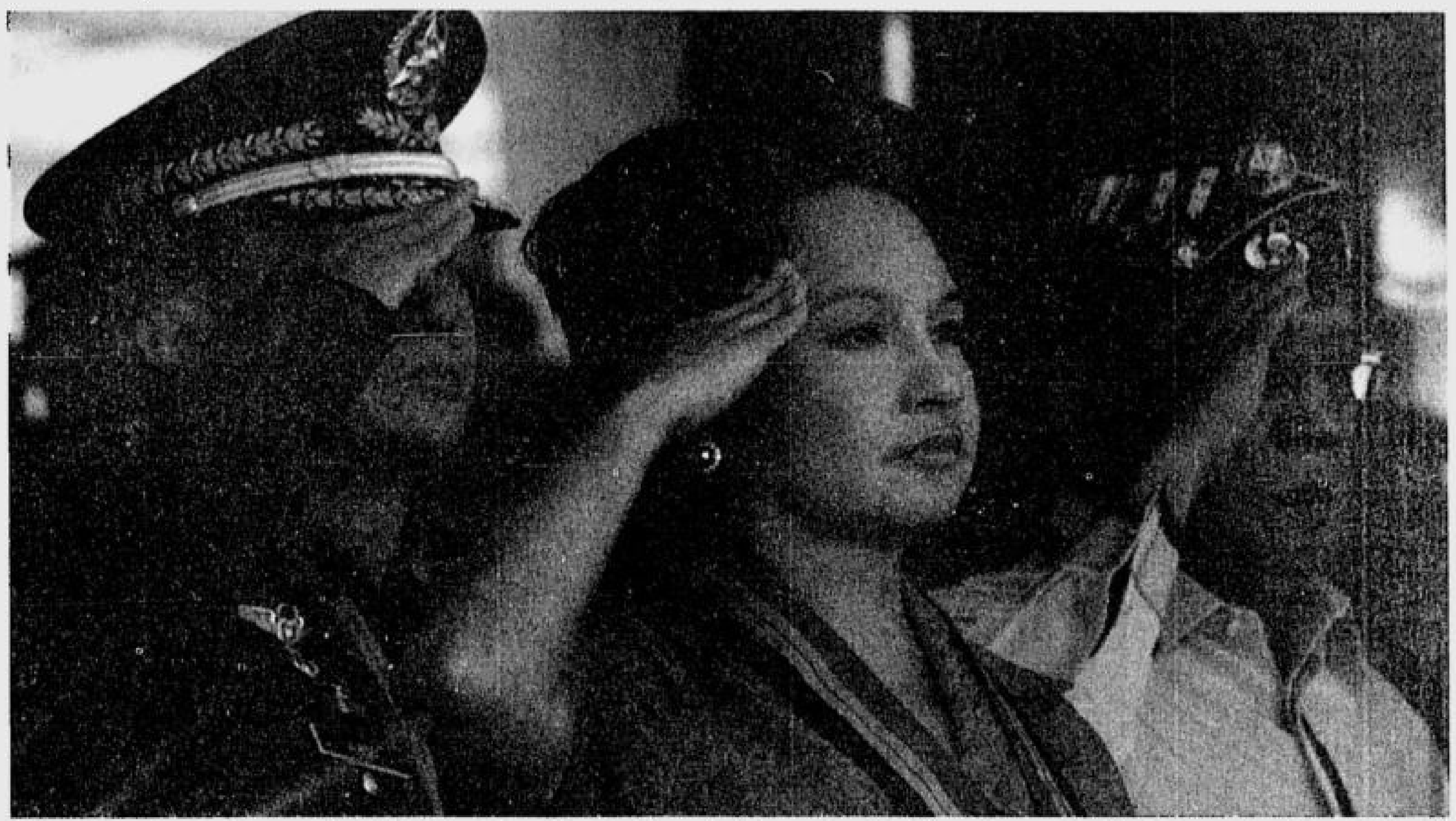
At the traditional refreshments at the AFP Officers Clubhouse, Abaya was in high spirits as he posed for pictures with retired military officials and their families.

"Tomorrow I will sleep the whole day," he told reporters.

Normally a joyous occasion, the turnover ceremony was simple, even austere. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Abaya's predecessors—Angelo Reyes (now interior secretary), Diomedio Villanueva, Roy Cimatu (now special envoy to Iraq) and Dionisio Santiago—were noticeably absent.

Another ex-chief of staff, Benjamin Defensor, attended the turnover ceremony but did not partake of the refreshments.



FULSOME praise for the outgoing Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya (left) came from President Arroyo. At right is former President Fidel Ramos, who had also been AFP chief of staff.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Defensor is the younger brother of Senator Santiago, who has accused unnamed generals' wives of being part of the "institutionalized" corruption in the AFP.

Abaya's wife Susan, as well as Lorna Abu, wife of the new AFP chief of staff, have called on Santiago to name names. They also denied that they were living ostentatious lives.

Moral ascendancy

The wife of one of the ranking officials yesterday told the INQUIRER that "since we have said our piece, [we will now] shut up."

In her own speech at the turnover ceremony, Ms Arroyo characterized her appointment of Abaya in April 2003 because of his "moral ascendancy to undertake reforms" as one of her "important strategic decisions to drive reform deeper" in the AFP.

She lauded his achievements—success in the antiterror campaign, reforms in military procurement, more effective austerity measures, and higher salaries for soldiers—and claimed affinity with his anguish over the corruption scandal that hounded him in the last weeks of his term.

"I could feel his pain as we spoke about being scorned, but I do not believe, and I do not think any of you believe, that General Abaya is scorned, except by a few," the President said.

Dispute over Jusmag

But while Abaya might have left behind the scandal on the unexplained wealth of ranking military officials, his next task is to continue to assert the government's right to the 35-hectare Jusmag property that could generate at least P12 billion in revenues for the BCDA and for the AFP modernization program.

If the Supreme Court upholds the government's right and junks the land titles held by members of the Southside Homeowners Association Inc.—wives of retired military officials who facilitated the takeover of the property in 1991—Abaya would have to evict some of his past superiors and colleagues.

Among those with houses on the property are former AFP chiefs of staff Villanueva, Cimatu and Defensor; Gregorio Camiling and Ernesto Carolina, both retired lieutenant generals; Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag; and Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay.

No jewelry, no Golez in AFP turnover rites

From page A1

legations of corruption in the military and the alleged accumulation of ill-gotten wealth by former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. Golez is a graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis and an adopted member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1970.

Observers said the dress worn by Lorna Abu, wife of the incoming AFP chief of staff, was more fashionable than the rest, but nevertheless, remained simple compared to the dresses worn by other wives in previous parades.

In a speech she delivered recently before the Senate, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago charged that a parallel group, composed of wives of senior military officers, was actively involved in "institutionalized" corruption in the military.

Santiago said wives of senior officers, led by the chief of staff, received a cash reward of around P100 million which they used to buy expensive jewelry, luxury vehicles and to pay for their dance instructors and trips abroad.

Santiago also said the women were easy to spot because they colored their "salt-and-pepper" hair.

Susan Abaya, wife of the outgoing AFP chief, and Lorna Abu had taken exception to Santiago's remarks, saying that the wives were involved in any corruption in the military.

'Gang of 12'

Earlier, Santiago said a "Gang of 12" composed of the chief of staff and members of the J-staff were involved in widespread graft and corruption which had resulted in a P2-billion-a-year loss in the military's budget.

Observers said parades in GHQ (general headquarters) had become more simple since Abaya took over the AFP in April last year.

No 'flybys'

But this year's traditional change of command was austere. PMA cadets were no longer assigned to march in the parade and to hold up the colors. Omitted, too, was the parade of armored units and members of the special operations battalions wearing face paint and camouflaged uniforms while carrying the latest high-powered assault weapons.

Gone as well, were the "flybys" of the Philippine Air Force.

In one change of command parade, a helicopter flew above the parade grounds with a large farewell banner to the outgoing chief of staff. Not this time.

Even the snacks served after the parade at the AFP Commissioned Officers' Club (AFP-COC) were simple.

Sorely missed wines

Guests were served fried chicken, *kinilaw na isda,* bread, strips of turnips and carrots, dipped in mayonnaise, juice and soft drinks. Sorely missed were the usual Japanese sushi, prawns, fruits galore, wines and spirits.

Abu's 1st act: Scrap AFP comptrollership

From page A1

the mandatory retirement age of 56. Abu himself is set to retire in June.

He said that he would go after corruption in the military, and that "the full force of the law" would be brought to bear on all officials found guilty of graft and corruption, "be it a ranking general or a least ranking soldier."

"Graft and corruption has no place in our ranks," he said, adding:

"The AFP has no place for people who taint its honor and break its noble tradition."

Mission order

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself announced the mission of the new AFP chief of staff: Oversee Garcia's court-martial, dispense military justice to the corrupt and cleanse the command.

She said choosing Abu for the post was the third most important component of reforms in the military that she had instituted, the first two being the previous appointment of Abaya and of the civilian defense secretary, Avelino "Nonong" Cruz.

Ms Arroyo vowed to recover stolen wealth, prosecute grafters whoever they were, and shield the rest of the military from dishonor.

She also said that everybody was part of the "cycle of corruption and cynicism," and that all must join hands to root out the "festering and entrenched culture of corruption" if the country were to emerge from the economic mess and usher in progress.

4 new offices

Later in an ambush interview, Abu clarified that the four functions of J-6 would be delegated to four new offices under his office: those of the comptroller, of resource and management, of the internal auditor, and of accounting.

These offices will handle internal audit, planning, programming, budgeting, comptrolling and accounting. Budgeting for the AFP, the primary function of J-6, will be the task of the resource and management office.

Abu said he hoped to "strengthen check and balances" among the four offices that would handle the funds of the military. He said his new setup would mean there would be no new offices in the J staff.

"These [four new offices] will be distinct from each other and not under one group anymore," he said, adding that each office would be responsible to him.

"That means, if one does something funny, I will be included because I am responsible for them. If there is corruption in any of the offices, I will be hanged for that. *Malalagot ako diyan,*" he said.

Abu said the top brass had been contemplating the abolition of J-6 for a long time now.

"But we did not want to do this suddenly. But there was an opportunity; we had a mandate. So this is it," he said.

'Sterling' exploits

In her speech before officers and soldiers, their families, legislators, and other officials and guests, Ms Arroyo spoke proudly of Abu, the former commanding general of the Army:

"I don't know how well the public knows General Abu as of now, but the soldiers know him well. His exploits in the field—from Mindanao in the 1970s to a light armored brigade to Edsa Dos to Malacañang's Task Force Libra in 2002 and Makati's Oakwood [mutiny] counter-operations in 2003—were all sterling and triumphant.

"Now the weight of promulgating military justice bears heavily on the shoulders of the new chief of staff. He will oversee the court martial of Major General Garcia as well as the investigation of other officers similarly suspected of graft.

"General Abu, as we have seen in your stint as head of the Army and in your previous commands, you have the political will and the decisiveness. And now you have the singular mission of transforming the insidious attempts to besmirch the command into an opportunity to execute our fresh wave of sweeping reforms.

"As I congratulate you, I urge you maintain that steady and straight line behind the flag."

The President expressed gladness that in his acceptance speech, Abu gave his commitment to stamping out corruption whether among military officers or in the system itself, "like the abolition of J6," the post where Garcia supposedly enriched himself.

"Indeed you have a heavy task, General Abu. In this heavy task you have my full support," she said.

Critical moments

In his own speech, Abu, a 1972 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy said the AFP was "experiencing critical and defining moments."

"It is unfortunate that the integrity and honor of the organization have been placed under a cloud of suspicion because of the misdeeds of a few," he said.

He also said he would "implement the restructuring of the logistics and comptroller system as embodied in the Philippine Defense Reforms."

He added: "This is to ensure sustained capability buildup of our forces and optimize the utilization of our limited financial resources. It will put in place a stronger check and balance system that will promote accountability and transparency.

"While this is a great time to be a soldier, I hasten to add that today is also the most challenging time as well. As an organization, we are challenged to lead and succeed in these extraordinarily difficult times. Our developing country has inherent vulnerabilities."

Cancer

Ms Arroyo aid the root cause of the situation today was the "festering, entrenched culture of corruption."

"Like a cancer, it must be cut out if the patient is to survive, and I'm glad that Abu gave words as strong as that," she said. "We must collect stolen riches and put people on trial for their criminal behavior, whoever they are, wherever they work and live."

"We cannot ask the people to sacrifice if the government and the rich get away with crimes that hurt the people and the nation," she added.

The President also assured the soldiers that the investigation of corruption in the military was being matched by determined efforts to give benefits to them, who were the ones serving in the front lines.

She said the increase in soldiers' pay would not be affected by the government austerity measures.

Soldiers' pay

"I can assure our soldiers, contrary to those who are trying to drive a wedge between you and me, that your full implementation of your salary increases will continue to be carried out," she said.

Soldiers have complained that the pay increase had yet to be given to them since it was ordered in 2001.

Senate to take over Garcia probe if House drops it

From page A1

House hearings, there has been a notable slackening of interest among his colleagues. Last Wednesday, only Golez and three other legislators showed up for the eighth installment of the hearings.

Osmeña said De Venecia should not put pressure on the House committees to end the inquiry, "because it's not only General Garcia who is being investigated here but the entire AFP procurement system and the non-implementation of the Feliciano Commission report which already outlined all of the shenanigans as to conversion, washing, discretionary funds that are being spent without accountability."

The Feliciano Commission was the independent body that investigated the July 2003 attempted coup by junior military officers who cited official corruption in the military, among other reasons, for their adventurism.

Pimentel said there were still issues that should be resolved by the House inquiry such as the allegations that Garcia did not act alone but connived with other high military officials.

He said there were many things that a congressional inquiry could "go into in support of efforts to reform the AFP, which may not be possible in very adversarial proceedings like a court martial or Sandiganbayan trial."

The investigation would also serve to pressure Malacañang and the AFP to prosecute the culprits and not let them get away, he added.

But administration Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a retired general, agreed that the House should end its probe so the "judicial process" can be allowed to proceed.

Probe of 'Gang of 12'

Even so, Biazon's national defense committee is all set to begin an investigation that will somehow touch on corruption in the AFP. The committee will be holding public hearings on Sen. Miriam Santiago's allegations concerning the systemic corruption in the military which the feisty senator said was run by a "Gang of 12" led by the AFP chief.

In Cebu City, a classmate of Garcia said he did not agree with a proposal from a group of Philippine Military Academy alumni to strike out the name of the controversial general from the PMA's alumni rolls.

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, the police director for Central Visayas, said deleting the general's name from the list of PMA graduates would not serve any purpose.

No disowning Garcia

"So you take out his name from the list, can you remove the fact that he graduated from the PMA? Can you take his being a PMA graduate away from him? No, so why do it at all?" said Garcia in a mixture of English and Filipino.

A mother cannot disown a son just because he is accused of committing a crime, he said.

The police official and the general are not related although they both belong to PMA Class 1971.

Director Garcia said he believed the suggestion to remove General Garcia's name from the PMA rolls did not come from their mistahs (classmates).

He likened the situation of General Garcia to that of other government officials who are also accused of corruption—they cannot be disowned by the schools where they graduated from.

Not brother's keeper

Asked if he was not ashamed that General Garcia shared his surname and was his classmate, the police general replied that one cannot choose one's classmates.

"I'm not my brother's keeper. Some of those who are pontificating probably cannot accept the situation. Like it or not, he is your classmate, you can choose your friends but not your classmates or even your relatives, we cannot just drive them away," he explained in Filipino. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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This Halloween, let's party...responsibly
Super

Miriam sees red in AFP spokesman's extra star

From page A1

spokesperson Edilberto Adan for wearing a uniform whose shoulder loop had a three-star insignia during Thursday night's interview over ABS-CBN's "Dong Puno Live."

"That gentleman, assuming he is one, has no right wearing the collar of a three-star general. That is outrageous and a total disrespect for the Commission on Appointments," the senator said.

She noted that Adan's promotion from major general, whose insignia is two stars, to lieutenant general had yet to be confirmed by the constitutional body.

He should immediately take off the third star on his collar to save face "because he would never become a three-star general," according to Santiago, one of the 24 members of the CA.

Blocking promotion

At the organizational meeting of the commission on Wednesday, the senator had formally blocked the promotion of Adan, who was issued an ad interim appointment by Malacañang on Oct. 20.

But the matter had not been acted on since it was not on the commission's agenda.

Under the Constitution, all appointees of the President, including police and military officials with the rank of light colonel up, are subject to confirmation by members of the CA.

In a letter to the CA, Santiago asked that Adan should not be confirmed because as spokesperson of the Armed Forces, he had "acted ultra vires in speaking out for the corrupt generals whom I attacked in my privilege speech. In using provocative language as a public official, General Adan has exhibited a readiness to go to verbal battle in order to improperly defend certain vested interests in corruption in the AFP, raising the strong suspicion that he is part of institutionalized military corruption."

Way off line

Adan, the former director of the Philippine Military Academy, had incurred the ire of the administration senator on Tuesday when he told INQ7.net that "it was wrong for her to say that" the AFP was being run by a "Gang of 12."

"It is an insult to the officer corps. That is a sweeping accusation that is way off line," said Adan who went to the extent of saying that Santiago was "only strengthening the enemies of the state."

A furious Santiago then shot back, saying Adan should "forget about becoming a lieutenant general. If he wants to see the future, [he should] forget about staying in the Armed Forces."

'Unfit, useless'

She called Adan an "anonymous little insect," the "lowest official in the food chain in the AFP" and "totally unfit and useless in the military."

She said Adan had no right to stay "a minute longer because he is not defending the AFP, for which he pretends to be the spokesperson. He is defending the vested, corrupt interest in the military."

Santiago added that Adan had made the worst mistake of his professional career by disregarding and violating the constitutional provision that the civilian authority was at all times supreme over the military.

"Why should he react that way unless he's protecting himself? Perhaps he has his own corrupt record, or he is part of the corrupt military cabal that I denounced. Perhaps he is acting on the orders or instructions of a person higher than himself, and possibly equally corrupt than himself," she stressed.

Catfight

Joining the catfight against Santiago were the wives of generals who had found support from two lady lawmakers.

Reps. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) and Darlene Antonino-Custodio (NPC, South Cotabato) said in separate interviews that Santiago could have tainted the whole lot of generals' wives when the administration senator said, without providing specific cases, that military spouses were involved in the corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Marcos, however, noted: "*May rason din naman si* Senator Santiago (She has reason to complain). Now that we are looking into graft and corruption in the AFP, we might as well leave no stone unturned."

But Marcos also said: "There is, however, a need to name names and cite specific cases to be fair to the wives who are not involved."

Antonino-Custodio noted that Santiago's claim about the role of some generals' wives in corrupt activities should "serve as a reminder that spouses and families of military officers shouldn't be involved in any business undertaking related to their husbands' profession."

"They must not serve as agents or contractors," she said.

Name names

Santiago earned the ire of certain wives of generals because of her statement that there were some spouses who served as conduits to military dealers and suppliers.

The military wives, the senator said, used their commissions to pay for their high-living expenditures like foreign travel and purchase of luxury vehicles and jewelry.

Santiago had questioned the right of generals' wives in making public comments against her.

Free country

She also said that it was not her job to name names and provide evidence, which she pointed out, was the responsibility of the executive branch.

Antonino-Custodio, however, disagreed with Santiago. "The spouses can speak if they are alluded to. This is a free country," she said, stressing that under normal circumstances, wives had no business making public comments on the official affairs of their husbands.

Afghan . . .

From page A1

July. *(See Nayan story on Page A19.)*

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye declined to take questions on the Nayan abduction and how government planned to handle it, telling reporters by text message yesterday that "all information related to the Afghanistan incident will emanate from the Department of Foreign Affairs."

When pressed, Bunye said that the "difference here is that this involves three different nationalities."

DFA officials said yesterday the UN would take the lead role in seeking the unconditional release of the hostages while the Philippine government would merely coordinate with the world body.

"They are United Nations workers and of course, the main assistance or coordination move should be done by the United Nations," said DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque, adding that any information about the condition of the hostages would henceforth be coming from the UN.

Armed men in military uniforms pulled the trio from their UN-marked car and bundled them into a black four-wheel drive on Thursday afternoon.

The three workers were employed by the joint UN-Afghan election commission that oversaw Afghanistan's first presidential election on Oct. 9. The abduction took place just as UN officials announced the end of the vote count in the elections which gave US-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai an overwhelming victory.

Taliban military wing

The Jaishul-Muslameen (Army of Muslims), described by intelligence officials as a new military wing of the former ruling Taliban regime that US-led forces ousted in 2001, claimed responsibility shortly after the abduction.

Authorities said they have arrested three suspects late Thursday in Kabul.

"They have not confessed that they are linked to the kidnappers, but they have records of armed robbery," interior ministry spokesperson Lutfullah Mashal told Agence France-Presse.

"They were wearing illegal military uniforms and they were carrying illegal weapons without documents. From their features they look quite similar to the eyewitness descriptions.

He said 500 newly trained Afghan police commandos from an elite quick reaction unit were yesterday scouring Kabul and the mountainous Paghman valley 30 km west of the capital where the arrests were made and the getaway vehicle found.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who "learned with deep regret and dismay" about the abduction of the three workers, said that the UN was in "close contact" with the authorities and was "hoping for" their immediate and unconditional release.

Crisis Management Team

In Manila, Asuque said officials of the Crisis Management Team, which has been reactivated and charged with coordinating the Philippines' actions with the embassy in Pakistan and the UN, met early yesterday at the DFA and was "looking at all options in coordination with the UN."

"This is a UN-coordinated action. We're closely coordinating with the UN. Of course with the assistance provided by the Philippine mission to the United Nations in New York," Asuque told a press briefing yesterday.

UN staff were also "attending to the concerns" of Nayan's family, Asuque said.

Romulo meets with family

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had a closed-door meeting with Nayan's sister, Grace, at the DFA yesterday.

"The family appreciates of course the information provided by the secretary of foreign affairs on the measures that the DFA has taken, including the assistance extended by the UN," Asuque said.

Nayan's sister also relayed the family's request to the media to be left alone while coping with this "very difficult situation."

"The family specifically requested that their privacy on the matter be respected by the media ... That was the personal request given to the secretary of foreign affairs to enable them to cope with the concerns and challenges arising from this delicate incident," Asuque said.

"We would appreciate it if the media would recognize their request for privacy," he added.

Valley of bandits

Afghan intelligence officials said the four-wheel-drive the abductors were believed to be in had been seen speeding toward the Paghman valley on Thursday, which has a reputation for kidnapping and banditry and is considered an easy place to hide.

Several Afghans have been abducted in the past and taken to Paghman, and all their cases were solved privately and without police involvement, an Afghan intelligence official said.

The Jaishul-Muslameen claimed responsibility for the kidnappings by contacting Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera's Islamabad-based correspondent in neighboring Pakistan on Thursday.

Mullah Omar

"Fighters from the Army of Muslims have kidnapped the three UN workers," the group's commander, Syed Akbar Agha, told the correspondent.

A senior Pakistani religious leader said Jaishul-Muslameen was the new military wing of the Taliban, which US-led forces had written off as a spent force after they failed to disrupt the elections with promised violence.

"It has been assigned the task of conducting military operations against occupying forces (in Afghanistan), targeting foreign nongovernmental organizations and people associated with them," said the religious leader, who had close links with the Taliban.

Mullah Omar, the hardliners' fugitive spiritual leader, was overall commander, with Agha its operational commander, he said. *With a report from Reuters, AFP*

TREATED to a Halloween party by the INQUIRER were the children of its employees held on Friday at its headquarters in Makati City. There were games, prizes and goodies galore. ERIK ARAZAS

'He has a passion to help'

By TJ Burgonio

ANGELITO Nayan has a passion for international development work.

Nayan, who was abducted last Thursday while working as a United Nations volunteer in the first-ever elections in strife-torn Afghanistan, relished advocacy and social development work.

Before Afghanistan, he had worked as an election monitor in another dangerous area, Kosovo.

When he was abducted by suspected Taliban militants in Kabul on Thursday, Nayan was working for the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan's Joint Electoral Committee, having taken a leave from his desk job at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"He was on the short list of UN consultants on electoral process," said Gilberto Asuque, the DFA spokesperson.

Nayan, 34, took a BS Economics degree at the University of the Philippines in 1992 and earned a post-graduate degree in international relations at the International University of Japan in 1999.

He passed the foreign service examinations in late 2003 and became an FSO IV, the entry-level post for Filipino diplomats.

He worked for almost three years as a senior program officer for the nongovernment organization Philippine Business for Social Progress' Center for Corporate Citizenship.

While working at the PBSP, where he wrote papers and delivered lectures on corporate social responsibility, Nayan also took a six-month leave to serve as a UN volunteer in the Kosovo elections in 2001.

"His passion is really international development work. He likes to help. He likes to help by taking part in international development initiatives," said Ruth Honculada, foundation affairs manager of the PBSP.

"He did a lot of volunteer work," she added.

Even during his stint at the PBSP from January 2000 to October 2003, Nayan did a lot of advocacy work "to encourage the private sector to contribute to social development," Honculada said.

"He's very unassuming, humble, down-to-earth. He's one of the most brilliant staff of the PBSP. He's regular guy, a good singer," said Honculada.

According to Honculada, Nayan had told friends at the PBSP in e-mail messages that he was finishing his stint in Afghanistan and planned to go on holiday in the United States before returning to Manila before Christmas.

After graduating from the UP in 1992, Nayan worked as a legislative officer for the Senate during the 9th Congress, serving as committee secretary for finance and economic affairs, drafting bills and resolutions for legislation, and writing speeches for the then Senate Majority Leader Alberto Romulo, now foreign affairs secretary.

Missing ballots raise fears of election chaos in Florida

From page A1

were mailing substitutes for the absentee ballots they claim were sent out but that voters apparently never received.

The mounting controversy further fueled tension in the pivotal state where President George W. Bush and Democrat John Kerry were in a virtual deadlock.

An opinion poll out Thursday had Bush getting a three-point lead over Kerry nationwide, with 49 percent of the vote and only four percent of the voters undecided.

The embarrassing incident came amid a string of lawsuits, claims of irregularities and complaints about long early voting lines.

Florida had already taken center stage in the last presidential election, when legal wrangling delayed the outcome for five weeks until the US Supreme Court halted vote recounts, leaving Bush with a 537-vote lead that won him the state and the White House.

Broward County's supervisor of elections, Brenda Snipes, said her office had sent out 127,320 absentee ballots earlier this month, and that at least 50,800 people received them and voted. The others will now receive new ballots, she said.

"This isn't a blame game. What we're concentrating on is getting the ballots to the voters," she said as an investigation found no evidence of foul play.

Authorities encouraged those who did not receive their ballots to take advantage of early voting, which started on Oct. 18.

Outrage

But Democrats expressed outrage and said many people who were out of the country would not get their ballots in time.

They claim the Republican state government, led by the president's brother Jeb Bush, has failed to fully fix problems that led to the so-called "Florida fiasco" four years ago.

Authorities spent millions of dollars on new touch-screen voting machines to replace the infamous punch-card ballot blamed for much of the 2000 fiasco.

But critics claim that because the machines do not print out ballots, it would be impossible to conduct a manual recount.

The issue was taken to court, but a judge dismissed the case this week, saying that while a paper trail would be preferable, he had no authority to order electoral offices to use printers.

Both campaigns had urged anyone who felt uncomfortable with the touch-screen machines to ask for absentee ballots.

While no official figures were issued, the Orlando Sentinel said that more than 1.4 million people already had voted, and calculated that two million people, or 20 percent of the registered voters, will have done so by election day.

Heavy turnout for Democrats

Analysts say this suggests total turnout, which was 70 percent in 2000, could hit a new record and that this could play in favor of Kerry.

"Traditionally heavy turnouts favor Democrats," said Susan McManus of the University of South Florida, warning however that the race was too close to call.

"It's going right down to the wire again in Florida. In this kind of race, with so few voters left undecided, it comes down to three things: turnout, turnout and turnout," said Clay Richards, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

Pointing to the massive turnout, the influential Miami Herald on Thursday urged electoral authorities to take measures "to avoid an Election Day disaster."

"The governor and electoral officials should anticipate the nightmarish problems that record numbers of voters can have on the system and prepare for it," the daily said in an editorial.

Extend voting time?

Part of the solution, it said, may be to extend voting hours beyond the usual 7 p.m. closing time.

Republicans, meanwhile, claim thousands of invalid voter registrations have been sent in by Kerry supporters, and have expressed concerns that sending out duplicate absentee ballots opened the door to more fraud.

Both sides have deployed thousands of lawyers to Florida, ready to pounce on any perceived irregularity. AFP

Missing munitions become Bush's 'October surprise'

WASHINGTON—A huge munitions cache that has gone missing in Iraq is not exactly an election bombshell for President George W. Bush but it could be the unpleasant "October Surprise" that taints many US campaigns.

Defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as "an unexpected but popular political act or speech made just prior to a November election in an attempt to win votes," the "October surprise" threatens to fell an opponent at the finish line.

Political junkies also view an embarrassing news story as an "October surprise," and some believe US headlines over the 342 tons of explosives that disappeared from an Iraqi arms dump constitute just such a setback for Bush.

Democratic rival John Kerry has made the missing munitions his key line of attack in the final days before Tuesday's vote.

Bush is on the defensive. But he is an "October surprise" veteran.

"Four years ago, the late-breaking story which really allowed (Democrat) Al Gore to close the gap with Bush was the discovery of Bush's driving-under-the-influence conviction," Elaine Kamarck, a professor at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a former Gore adviser, said.

Days before the 2000 election, the Bush campaign was forced into damage-control after a television channel reported Bush had been arrested in Maine in 1976 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Kamarck and John Hulsman, a fellow at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, said the story hurt Bush and dissuaded some Evangelical Christians from voting for him. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DSWD exec abducted in Cagayan found dead

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A top official of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Cagayan who was abducted last week was found dead on Thursday in Barangay Fabrica in Lallo town.

Police officials identified the victim as Primitiva Cabrera, assistant provincial director of the DSWD.

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, Cagayan police director, said they arrested one of the suspects, Franklin de la Cruz, 31, on Wednesday. De la Cruz was presented to local reporters on Friday.

De Gracia said De la Cruz, who identified himself as one Edwin Peralta, went to the DSWD provincial office to talk to DSWD provincial director Edna Junio on Oct. 10.

However, Junio was not in her office and De la Cruz instead talked to Cabrera.

De la Cruz introduced himself as a New People's Army member and claimed that he was seeking financial help for two wounded rebels who were taken to a nearby hospital and who were willing to surrender to the government.

As agreed, Cabrera met De la Cruz at the Victory Liner bus terminal here on Oct. 19 supposedly to help the NPA rebels.

Instead De la Cruz and his companions held Cabrera hostage. Aboard a banca, they took her to Barangay Fabrica in Lallo.

Later that day, Gov. Edgar Lara reported to the police that he received a telephone call from a man who demanded that he pay P2 million in ransom for Cabrera.

De Gracia immediately formed three police teams to hunt the abductors. He said they also coordinated with the Provincial Anti-Crime Emergency Response team.

During the negotiations, the suspects agreed to decrease the ransom money to P150,000.

They ordered Dixie Cabrera, the victim's brother, to put the money in a box and send it through the Rem-Marivi Bus Liner bound for Dagupan City on Oct. 27.

Police arrested De la Cruz when he was about to get the ransom at the bus terminal.

De Gracia said they were shocked when De la Cruz told them that Gerry Ramos, the suspected group leader, had killed Cabrera also on Oct. 19 when she refused to call Lara.

Ramos allegedly used a rock to hit Cabrera's head five times.

De Gracia said De la Cruz, a native of Lallo, told the police that he was given amnesty as an NPA rebel in 1998.

Lara, along with Cagayan officials and social workers, condemned the killing and called Cabrera a hero for sacrificing her life to help the needy and the sick. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Baguio all prepared for ghost stories

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—At this time of the year, this city can't help but look gothic.

Fog at dusk at any corner lamppost, add a man with an umbrella and an *ukay-ukay* trench coat and you have the famous poster of "The Exorcist."

Get lost in any mini-pocket of pine forest and you think you are being chased by the Blair Witch.

Real or reel, Baguio has been a subject of spiritual manifestations. Remember the segment of a ghost trilogy being replayed in the all-Filipino channel movie about an Igorot woman selling those cute stuffed Benguet dolls which turned out to be shrunken bodies of those who were rude to her?

Or maybe a true story about a wife who confessed to having her husband killed after his sister had a trance during the wake and told the truth using the dead's voice?

Since you are here as part of your semestral break or to get away from the cemetery crowd, then might as well refrain from the usual haunts and go into the real haunting tour.

Let us give you just a few:

Camp John Hay—We let an American serviceman tell us his story, which we got from www.ghost.org. hobbejo@aol.com: I was sent to Camp John Hay in November 1990 on temporary duty.

The damage of the earthquake was still evidenced by crushed hotels. When we arrived, I was told to report for duty at 6 a.m. the following day. I was rather upset about this, as I had not brought an alarm clock with me, and I am not known for being an early bird.

My roommate and I were assigned to a cabin, which had separate beds. I asked my roommate to wake me up in the morning and proceeded to bed. At 5 a.m., I was awakened by a Filipina standing at the door to my room. She was telling me to wake up, it was time for me to go to work.

I noticed she was muddy, and she was severely injured and bleeding profusely. She kept telling me to wake up, and I told her I was awake, but she was hurt and we needed to get her to a hospital, she needed medical attention.

She told me it was too late for her, but not for me, so I had better get to work. I asked her what time it was, and she said it was 5 a.m.

I thanked her and reached over to get my watch, which was on the table by my bed. Sure enough, the watch said 5 a.m. When I turned back to her, she was gone and my door was open.

The weird thing was this conversation did not even strike me as odd until I was in the shower! I didn't tell anyone of my experience for a long time, but I felt it would fit in here.

The Alvendia House in Quezon Hill—It is now known as "Paraiso sa Quezon" where you can shoot pool, do *karaoke* and drink beer overlooking the Baguio panorama. Koreans converted the lower part into an English language school.

Telecommunications executive Nonette Bennett, a spirit channeler, said the house had a sad story involving a ghost in the family that didn't know it was dead. Poets love to hold their conventions there so we can forgive their horror stories.

The former Hyatt Terraces on South Drive —Hyatt collapsed like a deflated accordion during the 1990 earthquake. A friend found this Spanish children's book among the rubble and brought it home. He had a lucid nightmare of being crushed by heavy walls.

One of the casualties in the Hyatt apartelle was the young son of a Colombian chef.

We returned to the ruins to join the Spirit Questors 10 years later. There were tremendous spirit callings back then.

Writer Danton Remoto channeled a gay spirit. .Another brought in an ancestral spirit who was in the lot before the hotel was built.

I talked to the caretaker who noticed nothing frightening during his watch—only that his fighting cocks would crow at crazy hours.

Engines often die mysteriously at night along that section of South Drive and rev back to life a few minutes later (happened to us twice).

Others also told of meeting a couple of nuns or a woman only to find them gone when they look at the rearview mirror.

White Hall in Teacher's Camp—Opened by the Americans in 1908, Teachers' Camp was a tent city for teachers. It was in 1913 when they built more permanent structures which could have included White Hall. This hall is dilapidated with its white paint feeling.

Convention goers had been trading stories about mysterious voices and shadows inside the hall and no one dared enter its toilet alone.

"What is little known is that near the White Hall lies a geologic-magnetic disturbance documented by both geologists and paranormal investigators," said Dion Fernandez, a member of the Baguio Questors.

SM Baguio and Baguio Center Mall —These may be the busiest parts of the city but they, too, have a bloody past.

According to oldtimers, the right side of the Center Mall was where the Kempetai or the Japanese terror police in World War II had their outpost and many guerrillas and civilians were decapitated or stabbed there.

SM Baguio used to be where the Pines Hotel was. This famous landmark was burned one night in 1984, killing dozens of people, including American war veterans and their wives who happened to be attending a reunion there then.

Loakan Road—This road going to Camp John Hay and the Philippine Military Academy is known for its Lady of Loakan, who would ride at the back of your car or cab without paying.

You would also pass by a cemetery with neat rows of crosses. I have been told that no body was laid. Years ago, a pine tree stood in the middle of the road. It was said to be enchanted and no one dared cut it for fear of earning the spirits' wrath.

Spirit's Disco—This is an example of raking in while the spirits are strong. In the 1980s, Spirits Disco was the rage of the town, boosted partly by press releases that ghosts, including Casper, walked through walls in this converted pre-war house.

The disco has since been resold and turned into a girlie and gay bar. Drunken customers often enter the strange stairways and come out of the different sets of bar or sometimes inside a VIP room.

Baguio Cathedral and Baguio cemetery —The cemetery, of course, should not be left out for obvious reasons. But didn't you know that the cemetery was the site of one of the bloodiest battles between Japanese and the Filipino forces?

Many people died and fell on the chasm beside my father's grave, who also happened to be a war veteran. Also, the cathedral was where many residents sought refuge at the end of World War II.

Editor Cecile Afable, who was there, said the Americans bombed the church on a wrong information given by a woman who said that Japanese soldiers were inside, killing many residents whose crypts were at the back of the church.

Casa Vallejo—According to Dion Fernandez, Casa Vallejo was an American inn and bomb shelter during World War II. It was declared bankrupt only a few years ago and is now empty, except for the field office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the basement.

"Although no one now walks the quiet halls of this once elegant building, many say that other unexplainable entities still do," said Fernandez.

The Questors are particularly intrigued by the huge mirrors inside Casa Vallejo which, he said, are portals to the unknown.

Ambuklao Road—One gloomy night five years ago, a helicopter was seen by people in this isolated road lowering something which turned out to be seven headless bodies.

Their heads were later found. People said the victims, reportedly fishpond workers in the Visayas, were summarily executed in Manila.

Because the event happened when "Blair Witch Project" was the rage, people camped along the road, hoping for the horrifying thrill.

A friend told us about seeing a thin man in leather trench coat walking there. It could be a ghost, he said. We had a laugh with that one, for everyone there knew it was rock star Joey "Pepe" Smith going home to Casa Romana on Ambuklao Road.

ALL PREPARED for the day of the dead, a man wearing a mask poses in a Baguio mall partly blocking an image of the Virgin Mary.
VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Cavite vice gov sues gov, 6 others for graft

CALAMBA CITY—Cavite Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla on Thursday filed graft and corruption charges against his former political ally Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi and six other individuals over a compromise agreement on the expropriation case of a 39-hectare lot in Trece Martires City.

In his 22-page complaint, Remulla accused Maliksi, provincial legal officer Renato Ignacio and Board Members Recto Cantinbuhan and Rafael Rodriguez of conniving with Eleuterio Pascual and Sonia Mathay to enter "into an onerous and one-sided compromise agreement."

Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez received the complaint sheet.

"The Caviteños, represented by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, were deceived, lied to, and manipulated into accepting a compromise agreement which is against their ... interest," Remulla said in his affidavit.

He said the agreement was illegal since Maliksi had no authority from the provincial council when he first signed a contract with Pascual and Mathay in December 2003.

The agreement was supposed to settle the expropriation case that the Cavite provincial government, then headed by Remulla's father, then Gov. Johnny Remulla, filed before the court to acquire parcels of lands in the capitol town.

Pascual and Mathay, now subject of an arrest warrant issued by the Trece Martires court, claimed ownership of the property, which now hosts the capitol building, city hall, public cemetery, public zoo and other government offices.

In the agreement, 9 hectares will go to the provincial government, including the current site of the capitol building.

About 9 hectares will be allotted for the resettlement of residents in the contested lands.

Over 8 hectares, which is now the site of the forest park and a P20-million sports complex, will be given to Mathay and Pascual as owners of the lot. This will, in turn, give rise to a mall and city college.

The rest of the property will go to the city government.

Maliksi, Ignacio, Rodriguez and Recto signed the deal which required the Cavite government to pay the supposed owners P25 million for the lot.

In a mobile phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Remulla said the provincial government would lose over P500 million if the agreement becomes final and executory.

He said thousands of residents in the area would also be displaced.

"In simple words, this agreement required us to pay for the property which is already ours. It's foolish. I don't understand why some officials let themselves be duped and manipulated by interest groups," Remulla told the INQUIRER.

He maintained that politics had nothing to do with the case.

"This is a case of issues, not personalities," he said.

But for Cavite residents here, the case was the nail in the coffin of the political alliance between Maliksi and Remulla. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA rebs burn equipment at Napocor station site

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels burned heavy equipment belonging to construction companies building a Napocor sub-station in Maco, Compostela Valley on Wednesday, the military said Friday.

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, chief of the military's 5th Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, said the New People's Army was punishing the NRT/JS and V. Construction companies for their refusal to pay revolutionary taxes.

He said operatives from the Maco police and the Army's 67th and 72nd infantry battalions conducted pursuit operations but failed to catch up with the rebels.

As this developed, a regional trial court judge in Nabunturan, Compostela Valley granted bail to two lumad leaders who were earlier arrested for arson.

Judge Jose Lopez of the RTC Branch 3 ordered Datu Camilo Banad and Datu Carlito Buntas released on Wednesday afternoon after posting P100,000 in bail each for their temporary liberty.

Lopez said evidence against the two lumad leaders was weak.

The 64-year-old Banad, one of the discoverers of the Mt. Diwata gold rush, and Buntas, 61, chair of the Compostela Valley provincial council of elders, gave up Monday afternoon after more than a year in hiding.

They were among 11 persons accused by the Las Vegas Mining Corp. of burning its bunkhouse in Sitio Depot, Barangay Upper Ulip in Monkayo town, also in Compostela Valley on Feb. 24 last year.

Two other co-accused identified as Loloy Enerio and Romeo Alejo already died. Enerio was shot dead in Tagum City early this year while Alejo died in a motorcycle crash.

The company said the two tribal leaders conspired with the other accused and burned the company's bunkhouse.

The mining firm also said the suspects destroyed several office equipment belonging to the company.

Four of the mining company's guards executed an affidavit pointing to the 11 suspects as the ones who burned down the bunkhouse.

The guards were identified as Raul Gesta, Ronnie Cagas, Boy Nor and Joseph Alfeche.

But last month, Gesta resigned from Las Vegas and retracted his earlier affidavit.

He said the suspects were innocent.

Gesta, also a Mandaya, said that he and his fellow guards were forced by the company management to testify against the suspects.

He said it was actually Cagas and Nor who burned the bunkhouse and blamed it on the natives.

Gesta said Las Vegas wanted to drive away the natives so it could monopolize the extraction of gold ores. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Negros provincial board junks town's curfew ordinance

DUMAGUETE CITY—The people of Zamboanguita can now walk freely at night.

The Provincial Board of Negros Oriental has junked a controversial curfew ordinance which punishes violators by making them clean street canals or by jailing them up to six months or imposing a P2,500 fine.

The board ruled that the Zamboanguita Municipal Council went overboard when it imposed a penalty of imprisonment on would-be violators.

On a motion of board member Rodolfo Martinez, the provincial board cited an opinion of Provincial Attorney Erwin Vergara who said the authority to impose the penalty of imprisonment or fine for violation of an ordinance is not vested in the municipal council but in the courts.

The curfew ordinance, authored by Councilor Rey Banua, was proposed by the Zamboanguita Peace and Order Council following alleged sightings of rebels in the upland barangays and the alleged series of crimes in the town at night and in the early morning.

Zamboanguita is one of the eight towns and cities in Negros Oriental, which would implement a peace agreement with the Revolutionary Proletariat Army, a breakaway group of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

There were two sets of curfew hours under the Zamboanguita ordinance: from midnight to 4 a.m. for coastal barangays and from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. for upland barangays. *Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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10 family members, maid die in QC fire

By Tina G. Santos

OVERCOME by toxic fumes, 10 family members and their house help choked to death and were burned beyond recognition in a fire that razed their house early yesterday morning in Quezon City.

The victims were identified as Vincent Cruz, 25; his wife Rachel, 24; children Kimberly, 5, and Kiara, 2; nieces Bianca, 8, and Pauline Ann Margaret, 10; nephews Patrick, 11, and Carlos, 11; sister-in-law Christine, 21; mother Magdalena, 55, and their house help only known as Jona.

Investigators said the fire broke out at 2:46 a.m. at 2 Phase III Rainbow Homes in Barangay San Bartolome, Novaliches, while all the victims and two other occupants of the house were sound asleep.

The house owned by Vincent's father, Julio Cesar Cruz who managed to escape from the blaze, also served as an upholstery and general merchandise shop.

The fire immediately spread as it ate up stocks of paper, foam, paint and other flammable materials used in the family business.

Investigators said the house had a narrow exit door, and a high wall at the back and a grilled iron gate could have impeded their escape, trapping the victims inside.

Another survivor, Jomay, 9, reportedly a son of Jona, told investigators that he saw a spark from a light bulb in the ceiling before an explosion was heard.

Julio and Jomay managed to run outside since their rooms were close to the exit, investigators said.

Vincent's body was found in the toilet. His children's charred remains were located in the laundry area, while the rest were found in another room.

The fire also damaged the second floor of a house nearby owned by Antonio Castañeda.

Unofficial estimates on the cost of the damage was placed at P2 million.

Initial findings showed that a short circuit could have caused the fire, but an investigation is ongoing to determine the exact cause.

In another incident, more than P500,000 worth of property was lost after a 30-minute fire razed a two-story house in Malabon City yesterday morning.

The fire started at the second floor of a house on San Diego Street, Barangay Santulan, investigator SFO1 Noe Bragais said.

Elizabeth Mahusay, owner of the house, said she was on the ground floor when she saw smoke coming from the second floor. Nobody was injured during the fire.

Bragais said they were looking at the possibility that the fire could have started from an unattended candle.

The tenants reportedly light a candle at an altar every morning, Bragais said.

Earlier, a fire also broke out around 8 a.m. in another house in Malinta, Valenzuela City.

The blaze was put out after 15 minutes, and caused minimal damage.

Beware of bogus priests, burglars

By Edson C. Tandoc, Ruth L. Navarra and Tina G. Santos

BEWARE of bogus priests.

This was the warning given by the Caloocan City government to residents on their way to the cemeteries on Monday.

A tradition of having the tombs blessed every All Saints' Day has also become an occasion for enterprising individuals to make a fast buck by posing as priests and handing out "blessings" for a fee.

The city government advised residents to look for makeshift chapels set up by the Diocese of Caloocan where they can arrange the blessing of tombs and other religious services.

At the La Loma Cemetery, for instance, at least four makeshift chapels will be set up. Cemetery goers are also advised not to bring stereos or videoke machines. Drinking and gambling are also prohibited inside cemeteries.

In Navotas, men going to the cemeteries are advised not to go shirtless. Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said Municipal Ordinance No. 2002-19 bans males from 15 years old and up from roaming around the streets half-naked.

The National Capital Region Police Office has already declared a full alert status starting yesterday as residents started trooping to transport terminals and cemeteries. Police earlier promised to intensify police visibility near cemeteries and transport terminals. The NCRPO will also deploy seven "bust buses" or satellite police stations in big cemeteries in the metropolis.

And since street robbers are expected to take advantage of the rush, NCRPO director Avelino Razon Jr. is asking residents who leave their houses to remain vigilant and careful, and ask trusted neighbors to look after their homes.

Meanwhile, new routes to ensure the flow of traffic would be implemented starting tomorrow, according to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando who was appointed the overall officer-in-charge of transport and traffic management for the holidays by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

All vehicles going to the Manila North Cemetery are warned about the closing of A. Bonifacio from Calavite Street to Tagaytay/Apo Streets. All Public Utility Jeeps (PUJs) coming from Retiro Street towards Balintawak shall turn left to CDC Street, right on Alcaraz, left on Speaker Perez, left on on Del Monte Avenue, and right on A. Bonifacio Avenue.

PUJs coming from the Balintawak junction toward Blumentritt shall take Mayon Street, right to Retiro Street, left on Dr. Alejos, and right at Makiling until arriving at their destination.

All private vehicles and PUJs from the Bonifacio Monument Circle going to La Loma Cemetery will travel straight to Rizal Avenue Extension. However, upon reaching the second avenue, PUJs will be directed to turn right towards F. Roxas Street to their point of destination. Private vehicles and PUJs coming from south of Manila going to the Bonifacio Monument Circle will travel along Rizal Avenue Extension to their point of destination.

In Makati, there will be road closures on South Avenue, from J.P. Rizal Avenue to Metropolitan Avenue; Kalayaan Avenue, from Zapote to Nicanor Garcia Street (Reposo); Nicanor Garcia Street (Reposo), from J.P. Rizal Avenue to Kalayaan Avenue; Vito Cruz Extension, from South Avenue to Zapote Street; Pililia, from J.P. Rizal Avenue to South Avenue; Montojo, from Zapote Street to South Avenue, and Yague, from Zapote Street to South Avenue.

Some streets will be one-way like J.P. Rizal Avenue, eastbound from Pasong Tamo to Trabajo (the stretch from Makati Avenue up to Trabajo will temporarily be made a two-way street); Nicanor Garcia (Reposo), northbound from Jupiter/Metropolitan to Kalayaan Avenue and eastbound from Ayala Extension to Nicanor Garcia Street, and Hippodromo, westbound from Zobel Roxas to Ayala Extension (normal flow).

All westbound vehicles along J.P. Rizal Avenue, from Edsa/Guadalupe going toward Manila will turn right to Trabajo Street then left to Hippodromo Street toward A.P. Reyes Avenue, while eastbound vehicles from Del Pan will go straight towards Guadalupe. Westbound vehicles along Jupiter Street will turn left to Reposo Street then turn right to Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia Avenue).

In Quezon City, meanwhile, some 160 traffic enforcers will be deployed along major thoroughfares leading to Quezon City's seven cemeteries to conduct traffic management, direction and control. Quezon City has four public cemeteries located in Bagbag, Novaliches, Baesa and La Loma. It also has three private cemeteries: Himlayang Pilipino, Holy Cross and Eternal Gardens.

Trucks and buses coming from Balintawak along A. Bonifacio Road and headed to Manila are advised to turn left to Sgt. Emilio Rivera Street, then turn at D. Tuazon and Calamba Streets to their destination. Motorists from Balintawak and headed to Manila shall enter Mayon Street, turn right at Retiro, left at Dr. Alejos, then right at Don Manuel Agregado, cross Blumentritt Extension, and enter Makiling Street to their destination.

CHILDREN spruce up tombs at the South Cemetery for a fee in preparation for All Saints' Day.

ERIK ARAZAS

Principal changes mind, seeks return to school

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A 180-DEGREE turn.

Alice Blas, former principal of Lakandula High School whose decision to privatize the school canteen dragged her into a controversy, has asked the Division of City Schools of Manila to let her stay in the public school she has served for five years.

"She has written a letter to us recalling her request for a transfer," said Isabelita Santos, assistant division superintendent for secondary schools.

Blas had volunteered to transfer to any public high school in the city "in the interest of service" as she had cited in her letter to the school division. She had said she sought a reassignment for the "welfare of the students," and felt that her relationship with Lakandula teachers had been too damaged to be mended at all.

Lakandula teachers, meanwhile, said that they would never allow Blas to return to their school, and would once again rise up in protest against their principal if she insists on returning.

Cop shoots suspect in jail

By Nancy C. Carvajal

"SIR, HOW'S my mom?" were the suspect's first words two hours after he shot the alleged killer of his wife inside the Pasay police headquarters yesterday afternoon.

According to officer on case SP04 Rodolfo Diza, P01 Joy Decena, 36, was at the station to give a statement against Emediline Moreno, 36, who allegedly stabbed his wife, Lilibeth Decena, the other day.

Diza said that, before Decena could start giving his statement, he stood up and shot Moreno who was inside the detention cell a few steps away. The suspect was immediately disarmed and did not resist arrest.

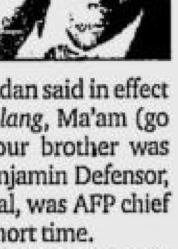
Police learned that the victim allegedly stabbed the suspect's wife in the chest, and that this led to her death. Lilibeth and Emediline, who were reportedly relatives, had a misunderstanding. At the height of their dispute, Emediline got hold of a bladed weapon and stabbed Lilibeth in the chest.

"My people did not know that he was armed," said Pasay City police chief Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, adding that he commended his men's quick reaction in subduing Decena.

Santiago should not use her power to oppress

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



I AM NOT about to cross swords with the very articulate Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago but she should give Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, military spokesman, a fair shake.

I agree with her that there's corruption in the Armed Forces, but the military is just a cog in the whole corrupt wheel.

Corruption is everywhere, even in the Senate and the House of Representatives, which is investigating the corruption scandal brought about by the unexplained wealth of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

But I don't agree with Madame Miriam's use of her power as senator to block the confirmation of Adan's appointment by the Commission on Appointments.

What was Adan's fault? His only fault was to tell the feisty lady senator that she should slow down on her accusation against the military since her brother was also once AFP chief of staff.

Actually, what Adan said in effect was, "*hinay-hinay lang*, Ma'am (go slow)" because your brother was once one of us. Benjamin Defensor, an Air Force general, was AFP chief of staff for a very short time.

There was nothing combative in Adan's statement. In fact, I found it conciliatory and placating.

Please, Madame Senator, don't use your senatorial power to strike at lesser government officials who can't fight back.

Your fellow legislators who will go with you in blocking Adan's appointment at the Commission on Appointments will also be committing the sin of oppression.

***

The Ombudsman should investigate Administrator Edita Bueno, Director Jose Seguban and head cashier Victoria Ruivivar of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) for allegedly conspiring with the brother of a well-known radio commentator in defrauding a local businessman of P25.6 million.

Businessman Vic Sianghio Jr. said he bought P25,630,000 worth of scrap materials and used electrical equipment from the NEA through Antonio Taruc, who acted as broker. Taruc claims to be a brother of DZRH commentator Joe Taruc.

But Sianghio said NEA officials led by Bueno never informed him that the same scrap materials and used electrical equipment had already been bought by another buyer, Li Chi Huang, a Taiwanese.

"I trusted Taruc because he told us he would never destroy his brother's name," Sianghio said.

Sianghio said he paid directly to the NEA and has receipts for it.

But when Sianghio came to claim the NEA scrap materials, they were all gone. He was told Taruc got the materials.

Now both Sianghio and Li Chi Huang are going after Taruc.

Sianghio said the NEA would not give him back the money.

***

At this point, I'd like to tell officials at the Department of Education that I am not engaged in selling textbooks or any materials to the DepEd.

I heard some people are reportedly using my name. I have nothing to do with any textbook deals at the DepEd.

If any official at DepEd knows about an impending deal supposedly involving this writer, please let me know so I can confront the people involved.

The high cost of dying

By Tina G. Santos

RODOLFO Cruz died of a lingering illness early this year. His wife Teresita, who sells plastic bags at a public market in Quezon City, didn't know where to take him after doctors said he had passed on.

A funeral parlor offered to take care of everything—from picking up her husband's body for embalming, providing the coffin and paraphernalia for the wake, processing the necessary permits and documentation, and bringing his body to the cemetery—all for P12,000.

She was also offered cremation as an option, but that meant shelling out an additional P3,000. Teresita understandably took up the first proposal since she still had to settle mounting hospital bills.

To be able to pay for the funeral expenses, she had to borrow money from loan sharks. But it did not end there. Her next problem was where to bury her husband.

A P20,000 to P80,000 burial lot was out of the question for the plastics vendor, who claimed she could not even afford to provide her five children decent meals.

A solo niche would cost her P5,000 while an "apartment" or tomb piled one on top of another would cost her P1,500 at a public cemetery.

Saddled with debt, Teresita settled for having Rodolfo buried next to her father's grave at the La Loma Cemetery.

Clearly, the cost of death—from funeral services to the acquisition of a burial lot—is as unbearable as the cost of living these days.

In Teresita's case, the expenses that followed the death of her husband were a never-ending nightmare.

She said she still has payments to meet, and is constantly on the lookout for an extra job to augment her income.

The traditional burial—with a long wake and elaborate last rituals—is common among Filipinos, most of whom believe that a proper burial helps a soul move on more peacefully.

But these days, many people already welcome cremation for more practical reasons. Both procedures are legally accepted, but vary widely in costs. For cremation, the standard price for the service is around P10,000 to P15,000.

The price varies depending on the type of urn used to keep the dead's ashes. One made of Romblon marble would cost P3,000-P5,000; one made of stainless steel would be around P18,000, and one made of brass would cost P75,000. Urns have standard designs. However, if the family opts for a more unique design, this can be custom-made and may cost more.

For the traditional burial, expenses differ on the type of casket chosen by the family members. The list of expenses is endless.

Today, many Filipinos are finding it hard to choose which—between living or dying—is costlier.

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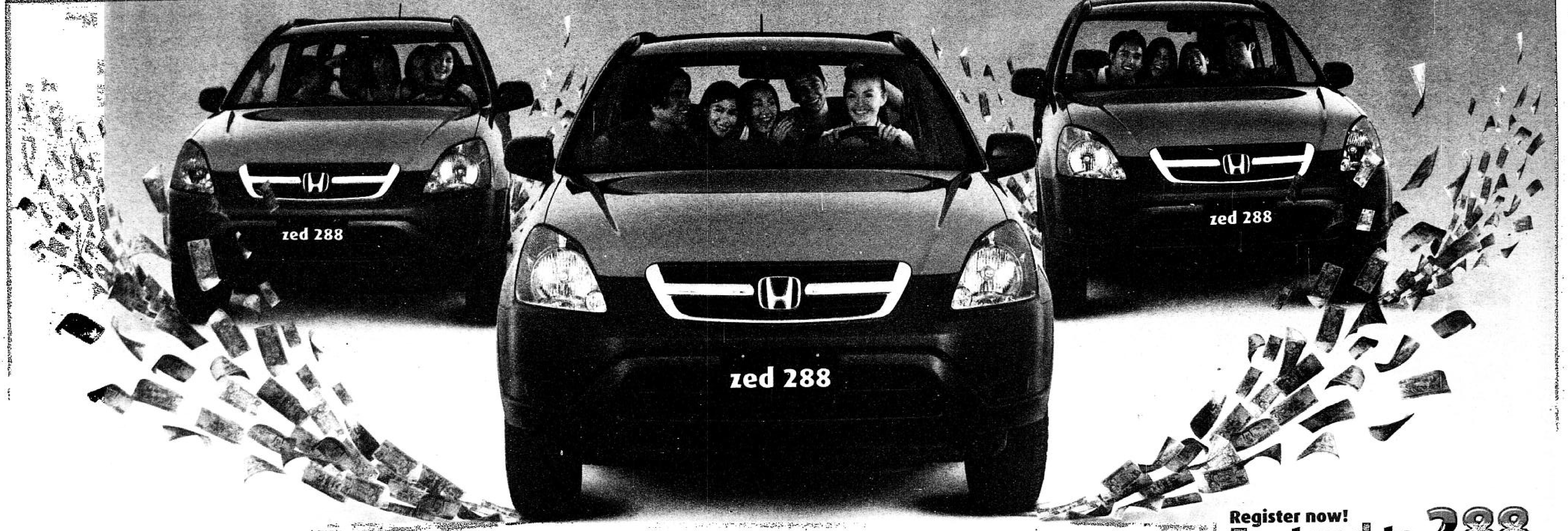

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Pre Season Games-Timberwolves vs Pistons; 8 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Defending champion Detroit hosts Minnesota in this warm-up for the regular season.

BOXING: Oscar Dela Hoya vs Bernard Hopkins; 2 p.m. (r); Solar Sports—Take another look at how the Executioner took the luster off the Golden Boy.

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Harp, Pennisi obtain 20-day permit to stay

Gonzalez challenges 'Fil-shams': Take DNA test

By Luige del Puerto and Philip C. Tubeza

TWO MORE Philippine Basketball Association players facing deportation can remain in the country for now. Pasig Judge Amelia Manalastas has granted the petition of Red Bull Barako cagers Mick Pennisi and Davon Harp for a 20-day temporary restraining order.

Harp and Pennisi, along with teammate Jon Ordonio, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra, have been ordered deported by the Bureau of Immigration.

Manalastas said she issued the TRO to avoid violation of due process.

As this developed, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday dared the so-called "Fil-shams" to undergo a DNA test.

Gonzalez made the dare as the Department of Justice formally asked Manila regional trial court Judge Marcelino Sayo Jr. to inhibit himself from hearing the case of Crisano.

Gonzalez said the cagers should undergo a DNA test after some of them presented their alleged Filipino grandparents and aunts to bolster their claim that they are Filipino citizens.

"These players are presenting people who have not been presented before claiming to be grandparents and aunts," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez on Oct. 18 concluded that Crisano, Harp, Ordonio, Pennisi, Hatfield and Asi Taulava should be deported for faking their citizenship.

"Pending litigation on the main issue ... this court resolves to issue a 20-day TRO to enjoin the implementation of a summary deportation order," Manalastas said in her decision.

The players' counsels had asked the court for an assurance from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) that their clients be given a fair representation during the deportation hearings. But OSG lawyers have argued that, since the BI is a quasi-judicial body, regular courts have no jurisdiction over the issue.

Lawyers familiar with deportation laws said the Supreme Court has, in fact, ruled many times saying the Executive Branch has authority over matters of immigration and deportation.

Crisano was earlier granted a TRO by Manila regional trial court Judge Marcelino Sayo Jr. Hatfield also sought help from the Manila RTC.

GERRY Codiñera of FedEx gets possession after a looseball scramble with Rey Evangelista of Purefoods in the game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Fiery Codiñera carries FedEx past Purefoods

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Shell
7:20 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia Realty

By June Navarro

FEDEX clung to reliable leader Jerry Codiñera in the payoff period to stop Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, 102-98, in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum last night.

The 16-year veteran clustered seven straight points that pushed the Express to a 97-92 cushion with 39 ticks left en route to their third victory in six outings.

By snapping a two-game skid, the Express pulled abreast of the TJ Hotdogs and idle Barangay Ginebra (3-3) in the middle of the standings.

"Jerry (Codiñera) has that leadership instinct in him. He might be one of the most senior citizens in the league but he has helped the team a lot," said FedEx coach Joe Lipa.

In the second game, San Miguel hit 13 triples to beat Red Bull, 93-82.

Olsen Racela, who celebrates his 33rd birthday tomorrow, had 21 points to power the Beermen to their fourth win in seven games.

Red Bull dropped to 2-4.

Renren Ritualo recovered from a listless start and scored 11 of his 16 points in the fourth, including a triple and a three-point play that allowed the Express to build an 89-80 spread.

Back-to-back three-pointers by Rey Evangelista and Peter June Simon, however, put the Hotdogs back into contention before Codiñera took matters into his hands.

"In our last two losses, we simply lacked the aggressiveness. My players responded this time around," said Lipa.

Touted as the fastest team in the league, the Express scored 21 points in transition and 27 points off turnovers.

Meanwhile, the PBA forged a partnership with the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) to help promote the hosting of the SEAG.

Philsoc chair Obet Pagdanganan has tapped PBA commissioner Noli Eala as one of the advisers for the Manila SEAG to be held on Nov. 27-Dec 5, 2005.

In another development, Eala said the possible obstruction of justice case to be filed by the Department of Justice against the league has no basis, saying it is the job of the Justice department to identify the players who acquired citizenship through fraudulent means.

PBL newcomers clash for lead

GAMES TODAY (*La Salle Greenhills Gym*)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Air Phils.
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Addict Mobile-Ateneo

LEAGUE newcomers play harder to maintain their good fortunes when Granny Goose Tortillos and Air Philippines Flight clash for a share of the leadership in the PBL Open Championship today at the La Salle Greenhills Gym.

The winner of the 2 p.m. match-up will join Magnolia-FEU (2-0) in the lead.

Big attention, however, will be on ICTSI-La Salle and Addict Mobile-Ateneo as the perennial varsity rivals seek their first win at 4 p.m.

"I hope we will do better this time because it seemed that the players still do not have the proper frame of mind after winning in the UAAP," said ICTSI-La Salle interim coach Gee Abanilla.

The Archers bowed to Granny Goose, 75-66, in a highly physical game last Tuesday. Mac Cardona and Jerwin Gaco escaped suspension for their unsportsmanlike conduct, but got stern warning from PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad.

ICTSI-La Salle, however, is seen as the underdogs against Addict Mobile-Ateneo.

The Eagles beefed up its roster with key players from NCAA champion Philippine Christian University and veterans from the dispersal draft. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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MALLORCA, Spain—The Philippines was battling five-time champion Hungary Friday buoyed up by its stunning 2.5-1.5 win over Serbia Montenegro in the penultimate round of the 36th World Chess Olympiad.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre and International Master Jason Gonzales hammered out victories on both ends of the table to power the Filipinos past the all-GM team formerly known as Yugoslavia Thursday.

GM Joey Antonio hacked out a draw at Board 2 while IM Mark Paragua stumbled at Board 3.

The close win vaulted the Filipinos into a tie for 21st place in the 129-team field with 29.5 points, putting them in a nice position to crack the elite Top 20.

"We're almost there. All we have to do is win our final round to achieve our modest goal," said team captain Sammy Estimo who had come under fire for his unconventional shuffling of men.

The Filipinos are fielding their regular board players only for the third time in the tournament against Hungary, whose last title came in Buenos Aires in 1978.

After dropping back-to-back 3-1 decisions to Azerbaijan and Estonia, the Filipinos collected eight points in the last three rounds to get back into the thick of things.

Antonio had something to do with the comeback, although he was held to a draw Thursday by GM Dragan Solak after 59 moves of a Center Counter.

Antonio, who was coming off a four-day rest, had a good chance of nailing another victory with white, but missed the correct continuation.

TORRE: Revenge win

GONZALES: On target

His 6-of-8 showing placed him in a tie with Russian GM Peter Svidler for the bronze medal at Board 2.

The 52-year-old Torre, playing black, shocked GM Brank Dalmjanovic (2578) after 77 moves of a Slav defense to avenge one of his two losses in the 1998 Elista Olympiad.

The veteran Serbian, who assumed the top board following the absence of GM Ljubomir Ljubojevic, was forced to give up quality to prevent his position from disintegrating but Torre simplified the position.

Earlier, Gonzales—who is close to earning a GM norm with 7.5 points in 10 matches—essayed the Queen's Gambit Declined to smother GM Dragan Kosic in 43 moves.

The twin wins offset Paragua's loss—his fourth, and all with black—to GM Robert Markus after 32 moves of a King's Indian.

The 15th-ranked Hungarians is formidable with three GMs carrying ELO ratings of 2600 and above, led by Zoltan Almasi (2650) who beat Torre in Elista.

"It's tough, but we are ready for the challenge," said Torre who anchored the Philippines' seventh-place finish—its best—in 1988 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Meanwhile, Ukraine virtually clinched its first Olympiad title after drawing all matches with Georgia.

With 36.5 points, Ukraine leads many-time champion Russia by three points.

The Russians edged Cuba, 2.5-1.5, to retain second place, half a point ahead of Armenia.

The Philippines shares 54th spot with 18.5 points with nine other countries in the women's section.

Women IM Beverly Mendoza defeated Zaida Hernandez as the Filipinas drew Venezuela, 1.5-all.

Venezuela scored through WIM Sarai Sanchez who beat WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao at board one.

The board three match pitting rookie Loreshyl Cuizon and WIM Josefina Martinez ended in a draw.

Mendoza is the team's top scorer with 7.5 points.

Pacquiao fight slated Dec. 11

MANNY Pacquiao, dubbed the people's featherweight boxing champion, has agreed to a Dec. 11 fight in Manila against Thailand's Fahsang 3K Battery, informed sources said yesterday.

Pacquiao has reportedly agreed to a $300,000 purse, instead of the initial $500,000 earlier dangled to him by Murad Muhammad, his promoter in the United States. Murad had earlier said Pacquiao would fight Gary St. Claire at the Global City in Taguig, but the deal fizzled out.

Pacquiao has been lined up for a rematch against IBF/WBA super bantamweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez in February.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's American trainer, reportedly plans to be in Manila at least two weeks before the fight. Roach has offered to supervise the training of Pacquiao and Z Gorres, top-ranked OPBF super fly contender who has been slated to see action in the card, the same sources said. *RT*

Bayron powers Filipinos to HK Open lead

BAYRON: 5-under 66

HONG KONG—Jay Bayron shot a fiery five-under-par 66 to seize control in individual play and Jun Bernis rebounded from a 76 with a 68 to help power the Philippines to a four-stroke lead in team play in the second round of the Aquascutum Hong Kong Open Amateur and Mid-Amateur Golf Championships in Fanling Friday.

An eagle-3 on 14th highlighted Bayron's near-flawless round in another calm, cool day here at Hong Kong Golf Club's par-71 Old course.

Counting his 71 in the first round, the former national caddies champion stormed past erstwhile leader Chan Shih-chang of Taiwan and compatriot Tommy Manotoc, the reigning Asia-Pacific Senior champion, by three strokes with a 137.

Manotoc momentarily stood on top of the leaderboard with a 140 after churning out a solid two-under-par 69.

With Bernis finally playing true to form, the Philippines totaled 134 and virtually put a lock on the team crown with a 278, a whopping 16 strokes in front of Hong Kong heading into the last 18 holes of the championship.

"We just settled down because after the first round, we know how to play the course," said Bernis.

Chan matched par 71 for a 141 while Chen Po-ming shot a 69 on the last flight at dusk for Taiwan's second-day round of 140 (282).

Erwin Vinluan, whose 73 counted for the team in the first day, had an even par 71 and tied Bernis for third place in individual play.

The only blemish on Manotoc's scorecard was a double-bogey on No. 6.

"*Ma*-sustain *lang nina* Jay, Jun *at* Erwin *ang laro nila*, sweep *na natin ito*," said RP team coach Roger Retuerto.

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Registration starts at 2PM.
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WORLD AMATEURS

Juvic fires 69; Pinoys tie for 16th in P. Rico

JUVIC Pagunsan fired a three-under-par 69 at Rio Mar's Ocean Course yesterday and the Philippines tied for 16th after the first round of the 2004 World Amateur Team Championship in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

The 26-year-old Canlubang standout shot five birdies against three bogeys in a 34-35 card to cushion the 74 of either Artemio Murakami and Michael Bibat as the Filipinos pooled 143 in the three-to-play, two-to-count format, 11 shots behind pacesetting defending champion United States.

Ryan Moore turned in a 65 and Lee Williams tallied a 67 to surge ahead by four over second-placed Italy. The Americans, who played the River Course, actually threw away a 70 by Spencer Levin.

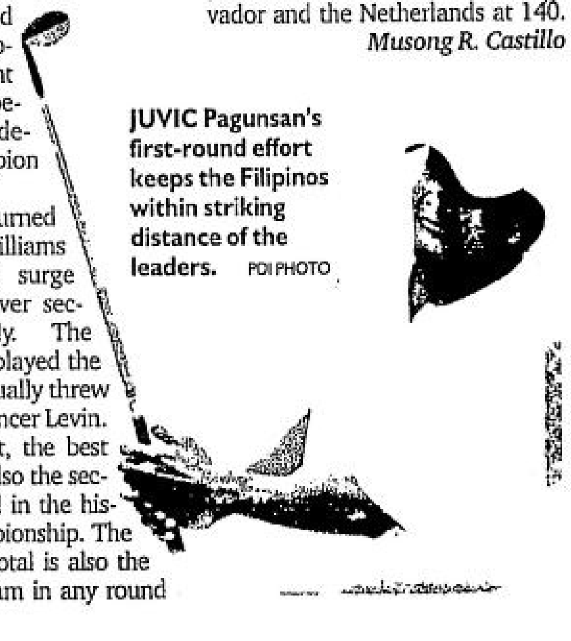
Moore's output, the best for the day, was also the second-lowest round in the history of the championship. The Americans' 132 total is also the lowest by any team in any round since the tournament format was introduced in Malaysia in 2002.

The Filipinos play the River Course in the second round today.

Italy got a pair of 68s on the Ocean Course from Francesco Molinari and Matteo Del Podio for 136.

Switzerland leaned on a 66 by Nicolas Sulzer to be in a third-place tie with England and Spain at 137. Sweden and Germany shared sixth place at 138, followed by El Salvador and the Netherlands at 140.

Musong R. Castillo


JUVIC Pagunsan's first-round effort keeps the Filipinos within striking distance of the leaders. PDI PHOTO

Saragoza runs away with Cangolf Am title

CANLUBANG—Boyet Saragoza provided a fitting encore to his Canlubang Amateur romp yesterday, turning the North course upside down for a 16-shot victory over South Korean Kim Chang-hoi.

The tiny long-hitter assembled another six-under 66, the effort sparkling brightest on a day when no one else even came close to matching par at the wind-swept, coconut tree-lined layout.

It was the second straight victory in a three-week span for Saragoza, who got a new driver from caddy-turned-businessman Tony Arevalo on the eve of the tournament.

The 31-year-old Saragoza shot seven birdies against a bogey to finish at 17-under 271.

Kim, who lost a classic final-round duel with Jun Bernis in the DHL Open early this year, limped home with a 75 for 287, five ahead of Marvin Dumandan (75).

Mark Bejar also shot a 75 and wound up fourth with a 294 tally, while Ronnie Torrecampo settled for fifth at 296 after another 78.

Saragoza also won the Samsung Amateur leg at Malarayat last month. *Musong R. Castillo*

Gabica vs Orcullo in 9-ball final

CEBUANO ace Antonio Gabica defeated Ronnie Alcano, 11-5, yesterday to set a final clash with Dennis Orcullo for the P500,000 top prize in the Motolite 9-Ball Philippine Open at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque City.

Orcullo bucked a gallant rally by Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego to win, 11-9, in the other semifinal match of the event aired by the organizing Solar Sports and patterned after the World Pool Championship.

The championship match was being played at presstime.

Losing semifinalists were guaranteed P100,000 each. The runner-up gets P200,000. *Marlon Bernardino*

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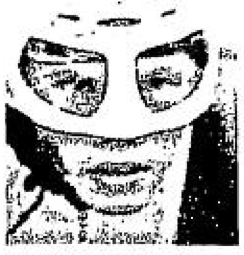
RP-Pagcor riders off to Taiwan

THE RP-PAGCOR Casino Filipino Trade Team leaves today with high hopes of an even better performance in the Tour de Taiwan 2004 cycling championships wheeling off tomorrow in the seaport city of Kaohshiung.

Veteran internationalist Victor Espiritu, the 1996 Marlboro Tour champion, will spearhead the six-man RP-Pagcor squad.

Joining Espiritu are Merculio Ramos, Alfie Catalan, Ronald Gorantes, Joel Calderon and Thomas Martinez.

Team leader Ric Rodriguez said the Tour de Taiwan 2004 will cover 787 km.



ESPIRITU PDI PHOTO

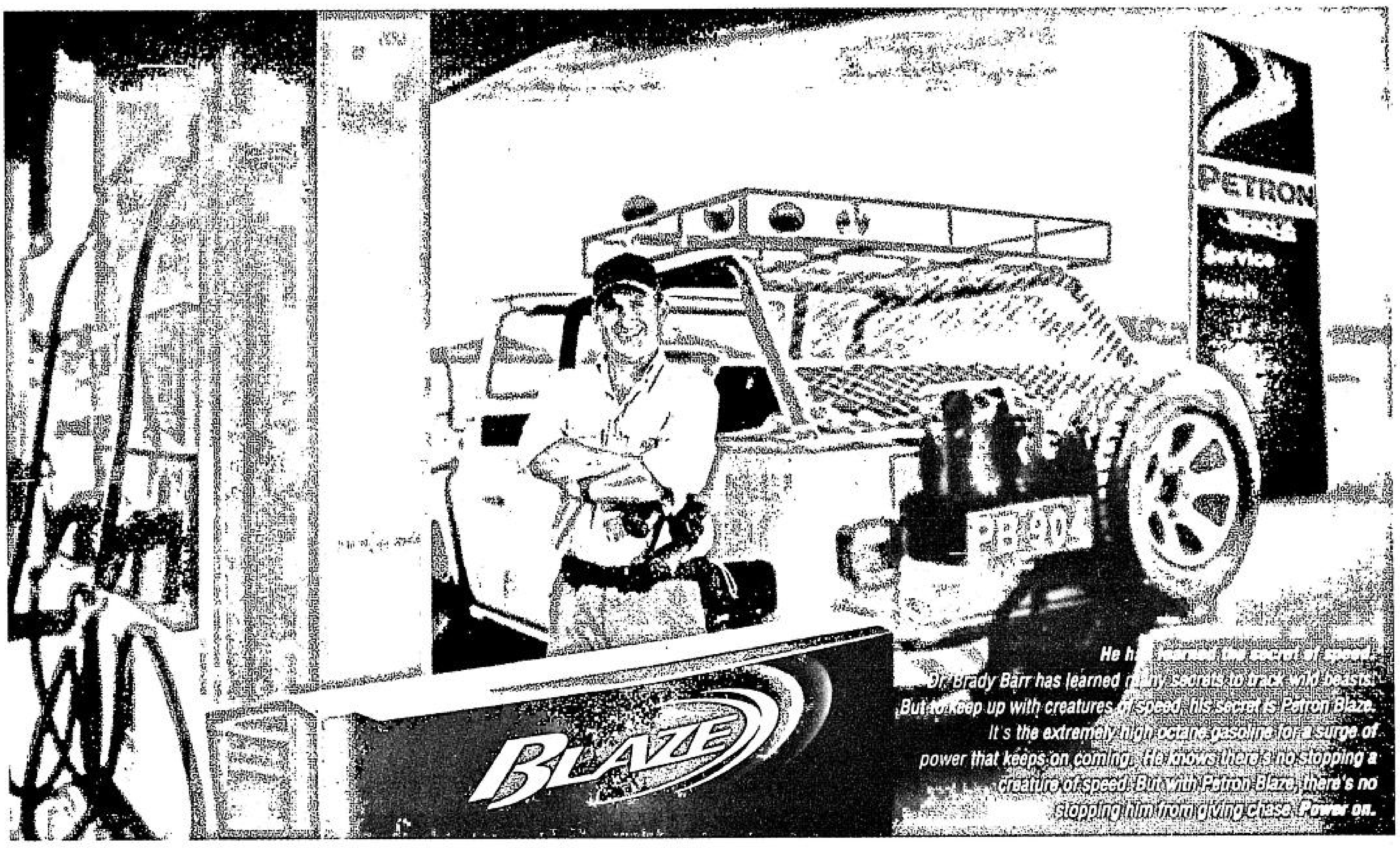
PBA tour wraps up

THE MALL-HOPPING PBA's One-on-One at Robinsons promo tour winds up this weekend in Batangas and Ortigas with Talk 'N Text gracing the affair at Robinsons-Lipa and Purefoods guesting at Robinsons-Galleria today.

The PBA interactive centers were launched last month at Robinsons Place-Manila and Robinsons Cainta with the players and their teams gracing the tour on a rotation basis.

LGBA derby tonight

DERBY champions from different provinces will challenge their Metro Manila counterparts in tonight's staging of the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association Inc. (LGBA) 4-Stag Derby" at the Las Piñas Coliseum. More than 50 matches are lined up in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor-Casino Filipino. Derby hosts Ariel Garovillo and Tiago Cerilla said entry fee is P10,000. Meanwhile, the "Fastest Kill Challenge One-Cock Ulutan" is set Nov. 18 with a prize of P150,000. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias said the fastest kill champion gets P50,000. Promoters are Abu Centeno and Renato Shio. Entry fee is P1,100. For details, call 8743910 and 8731040.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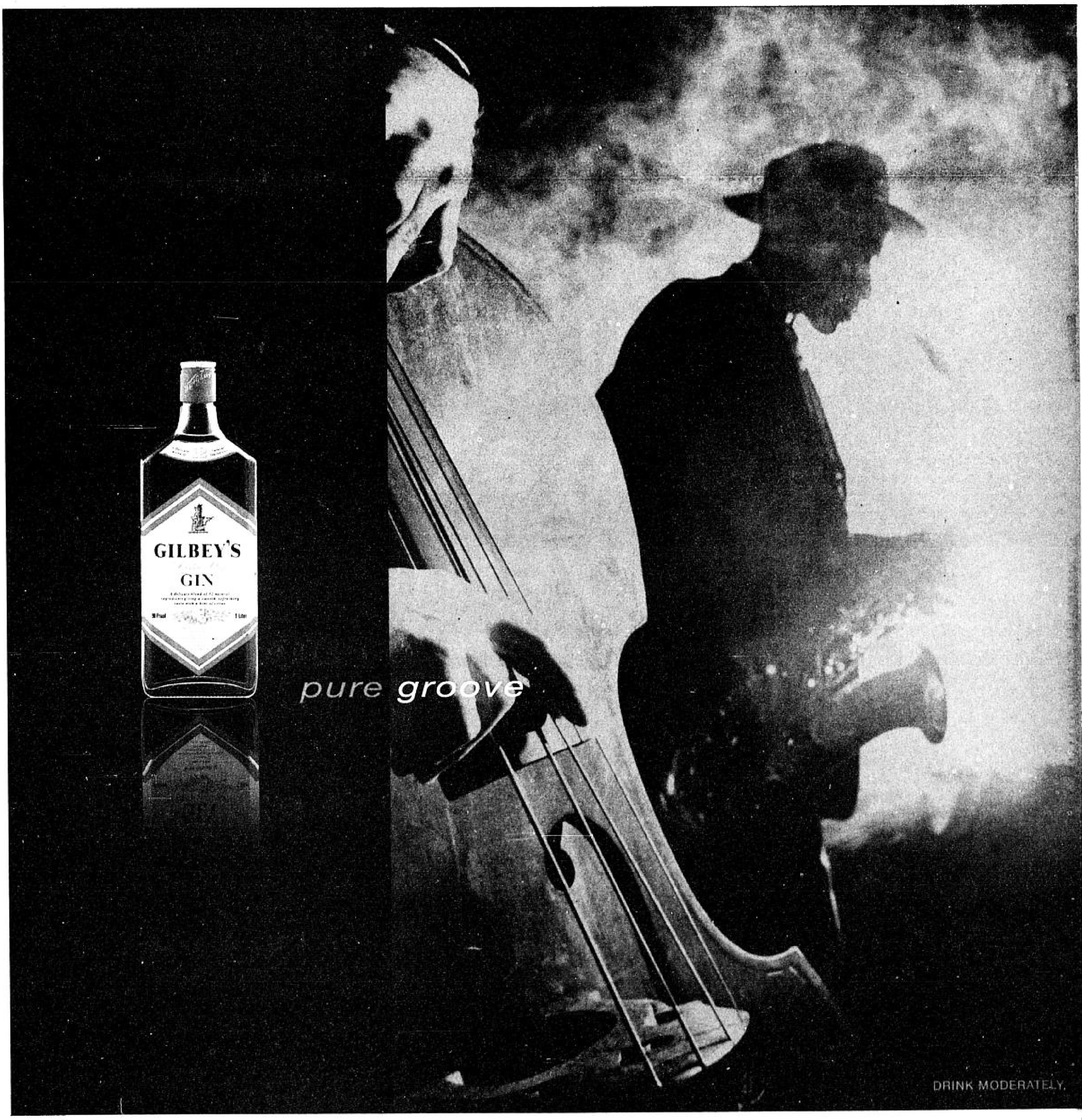
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Garcia, Lara share Volvo top spot

MOURNING (right) pivots off 76ers' Marc Jackson. AP

Mourning finally plays after kidney transplant

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Alonzo Mourning's first game back after a kidney transplant less than a year ago was a lot like the other 600-plus games in his NBA career.

"The only thing I can tell you is I felt his presence," Philadelphia 76ers center Samual Dalembert said. "I got a couple of blows to my mouth. It's going to be hard for me to eat tonight."

Showing remarkable endurance and strength in his first NBA game since getting a new kidney on Dec. 19, Mourning had 12 points and five rebounds in leading the New Jersey Nets in a 96-94 preseason victory over the 76ers on Thursday. *AP*

SOTOGRANDE—Sergio Garcia showed the consistency that has lifted his game this year with a four-under-par 67 in difficult conditions to share the Volvo Masters lead with Spanish compatriot Jose Manuel Lara.

Having won twice on the US Tour earlier this season and then taken the Mallorca Classic title two weeks ago, Garcia set up a chance of successive European Tour victories.

A strong wind billowed up many a score at Valderrama but Garcia's five-birdie round after a bogey at the third, vouched for the improvement in his short-game this year and the Spaniard's standing at world number 10.

"I misjudged one chip but otherwise I can't really think of any really bad shots that I hit out there today," said the 24-year-old.

"I really enjoy [it] when a course is tough because you don't have to be thinking you have to make every single putt to be up there.

"Some courses, if you don't pretty much make every putt you don't have a chance of winning." Garcia assessed his improvement after making adjustments to his game this year, adding: "Last year my long game was about eight out of ten and my short game two out of ten.

"This year my long game is about nine, maybe nine and a half, and my short game is the best it's ever been, I'd say a seven." The lethal long 17th, Valderrama's most famous hole, took its toll, with Britain's locally based Miles Tunnicliff running up a nine.

But Garcia said he always looked forward to playing it, confessing that the fourth, where he took a nine himself two years ago, was his danger hole.

Joint leader Lara's troublesome hole was the fifth where he was stung by a wasp, the second such incident on the tour in two weeks after South African Trevor Immelman suffered last week in Madrid.

Like Immelman, Lara was stung into taking the early first-round lead as he picked up five birdies in eight holes soon after his mishap.

"It took me a couple of holes to walk off the sting but it somehow seemed to wake me up and the birdies started to come," said Lara.

He is looking to beat his best finish on tour of second in last year's Italian Open and also improve on his tied third in this year's Qatar Masters.

Brian Davis and Alastair Forsyth share third place after 68s with Luke Donald, their fellow Briton and Garcia's Ryder Cup teammate, tied for fifth a further stroke back.

Donald also shared the best performance for the tricky back nine of four-under 32 with Lara. *Reuters*

Aguilar returns to Macau for FIM-Asi

REVTEX Rocket Glenn Aguilar returns to the scene of his grandest triumph when he plunges into action in Round 4 of the FIM-Asia Motocross Championship to be held in Macau today and tomorrow.

Aside from stamping his class locally, Aguilar, the defending champion in the FIM-Asia event, is coming off a stint in the FIM World Motocross Championships set in Namur, Belgium, where he competed against the world's best, including his idol world champion Stefan Everts of Belgium.

"That single event was worth a yearlong training locally," said Aguilar, who was Asia's lon representative to the world finals. "It (FIM Worl Motocross Championship) made me a better ri er and I hope to be able to use the experience t boost my bid for a second straight FIM Asia-P cific title."

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Nagtaas ng presyo sa kuryente ang NAPOCOR. Kaya't sa Nobyembre, tataas ang electric bill ninyo.

Sa pag-akyat ng dolyar, umaakyat ang presyo ng langis. Sa pag-akyat ng langis, nagmamahal ang gastos sa paglikha ng kuryente. Ilang beses nang umakyat ang dolyar at langis. Di mapipigilan ang pag-akyat ng presyo ng kuryente.

Kaya't, pagkatapos ng masusing pag-aaral, inaprubahan na ng Energy Regulatory Commission ang P[illegible]23/kilowatthour na dagdag singil sa kuryenteng hinihingi ng isa naming supplier, ang Napocor.

Mula Nobyembre, makakakita ang Meralco customers ng dagdag sa generation charge. Ang kabuuan ng dagdag-singil na ito ay pawang pupunta sa Napocor na lumilikha ng kuryente. Ni isang sentimo, walang pupunta sa amin sa Meralco.

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Maraming salamat po.

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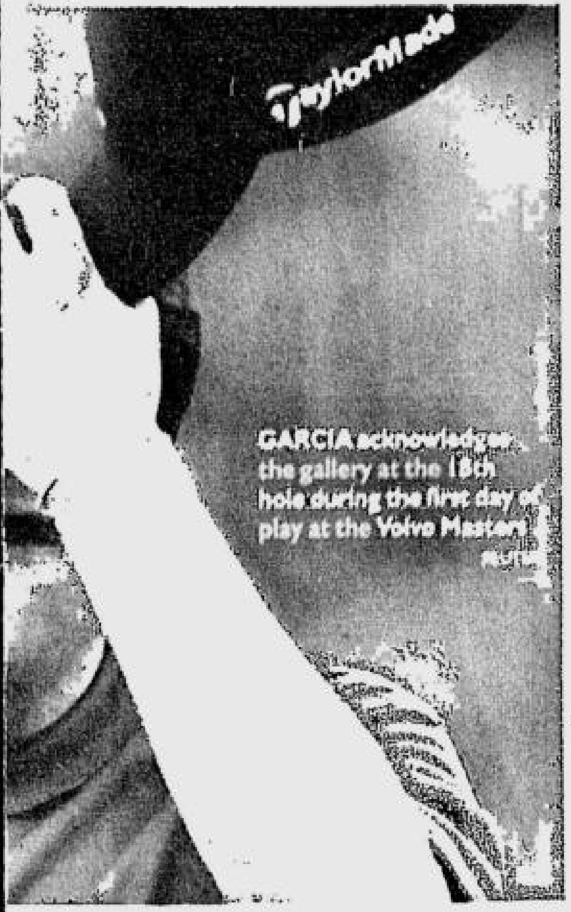


GARCIA acknowledges the gallery at the 18th hole during the first day of play at the Volvo Masters.

ia Motocross

Chosen by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) to represent the Philippines in the event with eight others, Aguilar will try to snare the lead from Japanese star Tadazaku Ohtsuka, who has a frontrunning 125 points. Aguilar totes 110 points.

UNDER-16

Ang leads age group q'finalists

ROOSEVELT'S Kevin Tim Ang outplayed LSGH's Luis Gomez, 15-9, 15-10, yesterday to make the boys' 16-under singles quarterfinals of the 2004 Toby's Age Group Badminton Championships at the La Salle-Greenhills FMAC gym.

Ang will meet MHDP's Rovie Crisostomo, who scored a 11-15, 17-14, 15-4 victory over LSGH's Raymond Alonzo.

Also advancing were Justin Legaspi, Adrian Pagsanjan, Joffre Arollado and Kevin Alfred Dalisay.

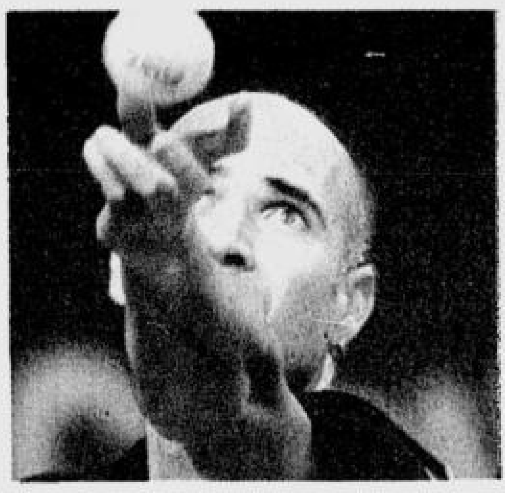
Winners in the girls' singles under class were Assumption's Maiqui Laurel over Miriam's Athena Dianne Chan, 11-0, 11-0, DLS-Zobel's Chelsea Felix over MDPS's Vicky Jane Escoto, 11-1, 11-0, SPAS's Caitlin Chan over SJNHS's Ariane Llanes, 11-0, 11-2, Assumption's Raquel Ann Guerrero over Rizal High's Princess Cadauan, 11-1, 11-1, ICA's Karen Claire Chan over MHDP's Karen Dyan Navea, 11-7, 11-3, Michelle Victoria Santiago over St. Scholastica's Joan Valerie Escoto, 11-1, 11-2, and San Jose Academy's Jertie Kagalingan over DLSZ's Nina Ramos, 11-2, 11-0.

In the boys' 18-under singles, GCBC's Dave Erick Moldogo advanced in the quarterfinals against MCU's Edmison Fontanilla.

JVC tilt lures record roster

THE JVC Open Badminton Intercollegiate Championships is expected to draw a record field with 12 schools from the WNCAA and 10 others from the men's side confirming their participation in the event beginning Nov. 10 at Powersmash.

They will join eight schools which vied in another JVC tourney last July, where Far Eastern U swept the men's and ladies titles. Deadline for registration is Nov. 5. For inquiries, call 725-2568/ 0917 5288970 (Nelson), 753-1286 (IMG), 09185094845 (Joann), or e-mail at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com.



ANDRE Agassi serves against Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden in the second round of the Stockholm Open. Agassi won, 6-3, 6-4. AP

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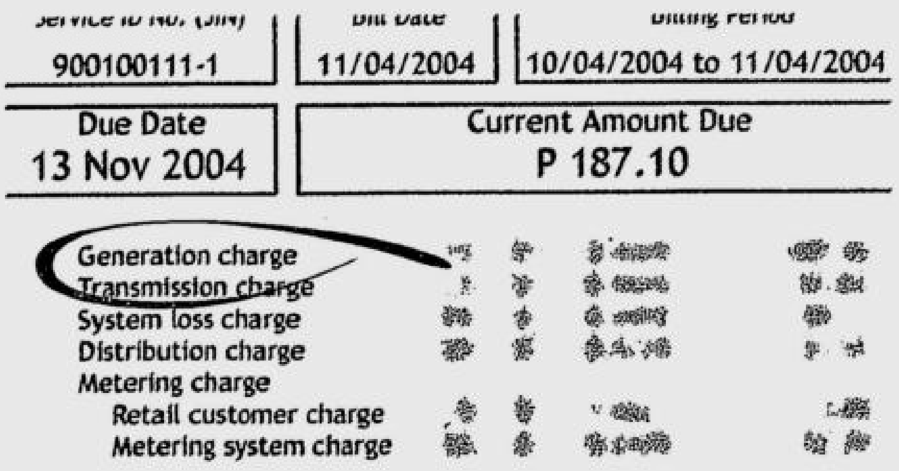
Rule rules Outdoor Quest early stages

3AH, Malaysia—International ad iRule swept the first three es to take Stage 1 honors Thurs- and grab the early lead in the tdoor Quest 2004 at the Nexus ort here.

While most teams treated the 12.1-kilometer prologue as a mere warm-up stage, iRule, led by skipper Marcel Hagener of Germany, was all business right from the start, taking leads of up to 10 meters in the early goings of the run-kayak-bike leg of the race en route to victory.

Australian Cris Klauson, New Zealand's Craig Stevens and Frenchman Eric Billoud kept in step with Hagener as iRule also reigned supreme in Race 2 (kayak-bike-run) and Race 3 (bike-kayak-run) for an aggregate time 1:03:07, a good two minutes and four seconds ahead of second running Montrail (1:05:11).



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1 THE GRUDGE	1 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	1 STEAL	1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 BEFORE SUNSET	1 LADDER 49
2 BEFORE SUNSET	2 THE GRUDGE	2 WHITE CHICKS	2 THE GRUDGE	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE GRUDGE	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3 CELLULAR	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BEFORE SUNSET		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3 SECRET WINDOW
4 CELLULAR	4 WHITE CHICKS	4 THE DOLL MASTER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WHITE CHICKS	4 HEAVEN'S POND
5 WHITE CHICKS		5 SHARK TALE		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CELLULAR	5 THE PUNISHER
		6 THE GRUDGE			
		7 CELLULAR			

At the Activity Center

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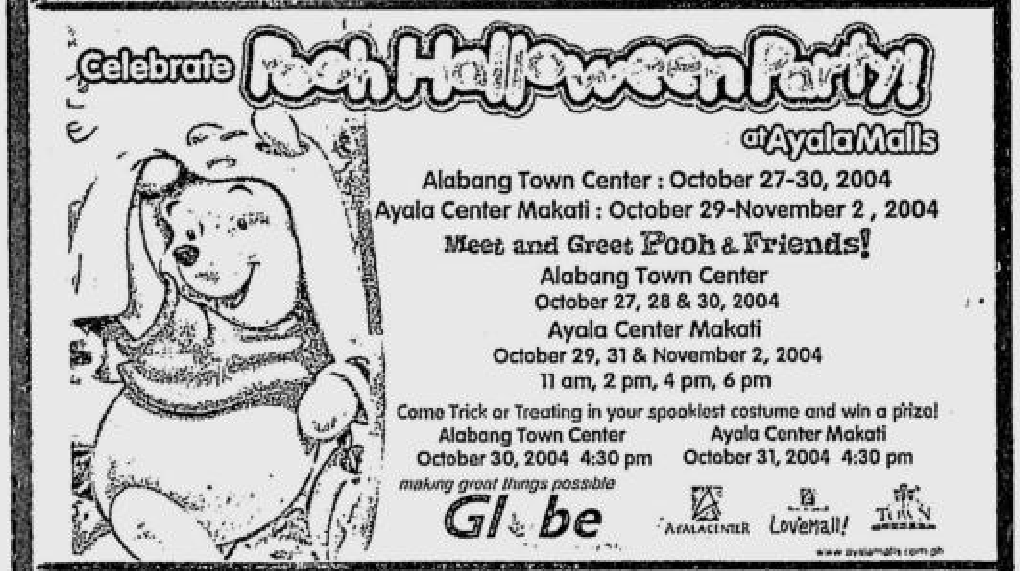

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HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Manila Cinema 2

LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating. PG 13
SM City Manila Cinema 11 | SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10 | SM City Fairview Cinema 11

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 10 | SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8 | SM City Fairview Cinema 3

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Per BFAD Permit 1056 Series of 2004

PAYNE. Art-house appeal.

Payne's 'Sideways' is more intimate

NEW YORK—"What's funnier than real-life experience?," Alexander Payne asks.

That question could serve as the motto for the director who set "Election" in a real high school, with authentic students and plopped an *au naturelle* Kathy Bates into a hot tub in "About Schmidt."

But in Payne's "Sideways," there's more tenderness. Like all of his films, it's carefully imbued with a sense of realism, but without his trademark biting satire.

"Election," "Citizen Ruth" and "About Schmidt" are more 'let's examine a situation,'" Payne said in a recent interview.

"We're outside the world of the characters. This feels more like the story issuing from the inside of the characters."

Old friends

The movie focuses on two old friends who embark on a wine-tasting trip to California's Santa Ynez Valley. Miles (Paul Giamatti) feuds with Jack (Thomas Haden Church) over their divergent expectations for the vacation.

Miles, a depressed divorcee and wine connoisseur, wants nothing but to sip fine pinot noir, while Jack's self-proclaimed "plight" is to sow the last of his oats before his impending marriage.

As the two friends grapple with their middle-aged lives (one a teacher with a 700-page unpublished novel, the other an out-of-work actor), they careen between wineries, eventually returning home in a busted-up Saab.

It's Payne's first foray into making a movie anywhere but Omaha, Neb. The 43-year-old lives in Los Angeles with wife (and "Sideways" co-star) Sandra Oh.

"I love shooting in the midwest, but I never want to be 'The Nebraska Guy,'" Payne explained. "I'm a filmmaker, so I'd like to shoot everywhere."

Coincidence

That desire to set out with a camera may explain this being his second road movie in a row after "About Schmidt," but it's just coincidence to Payne.

"'Election' is a high school movie by a guy who couldn't have been less interested in making a high school movie, and 'About Schmidt' and 'Sideways' are road movies made by a guy who is not really interested in road movies. I hate shooting in cars."

PAYNE'S/ A31

Payne's . . .

From page A30

But, the characters of "Sideways" made it worthwhile.

"The book (by Rex Pickett) is real. You live that pain of being broken up after a divorce, writing a novel and not finding a publisher."

Though this is only Payne's fourth film, he's already had considerable critical success. He and co-writer Jim Taylor (with whom he collaborates again here) were nominated for a screenwriting Oscar for "Election" and won a Golden Globe for their "About Schmidt" script.

Financing

"I came out of film school from UCLA, and I had no idea where I was going to get my financing from," Payne remembers. "Somehow, making the films I want to make, I've been able to get financing from studios. I write and direct my films with studio money; I have final cut.

"I have a European director's career in America. And if I can do it, then other people can."

In this, Payne is similar to several other young auteurs like Wes Anderson ("Rushmore"), David O. Russell ("Three Kings") and Paul Thomas Anderson ("Boogie Nights"). Able to make so-called "independent" cinema within the studios, they all straddle mainstream and art-house appeal. AP

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	BABY GENIUSES 2 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
4	SDDS	THE GRUDGE 11:20 am 1:45 pm 4:10 pm 6:35 pm 9:00 pm
5	dts	CELLULAR 12:20 nn 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
6	Dolby	THE DOLL MASTER 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	ROOM SERVICE 11:55 am 2:05 pm 4:15 pm 6:25 pm 8:35 pm

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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	BEFORE SUNSET / GRUDGE / SHARK TALE / WHITE CHICKS
PREMIERE THEATRE	LADDER 49
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KARIBAL
CINEMA-2	ROOM SERVICE
CINEMA-3	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STEAL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-6	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-7	LADDER 49
CINEMA-8	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE GRUDGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BABY GENIUSES 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12	WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-14	SHARK TALE
CINEMA-15	CELLULAR
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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SHARK TALE GP 11:15,3:35,7:55 BABY GENUISES 2 GP 1:25,5:45,10:05	BEFORE SUNSET PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:20	WHITE CHICKS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:05
THE GRUDGE R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:10	LADDER 49 PG13 12:10,2:35,5:00,7:25,9:50	CELLULAR PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 81 - MON. TO FRI.

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2	WHITE CHICKS 10:45, 1:15, 3:45 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 PG-13
3	SHARK TALE 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30 GP
4	BEFORE SUNSET 12:20, 2:30, 4:40 6:50, 9:00, 11:15 PG-13

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FS 10:20AM, 12:40PM, 3PM, 5:20PM, 7:40PM
LMF : 10 PM (R-13)

③ SHARK TALE
FS 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM
LMF · 9:30 PM (GP)

④ WHITE CHICKS
FS 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM
LMF . 10 PM (PG-13)

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LADDER 49
FS: 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM LMF 10 PM
(PG-13)

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2	BEFORE SUNSET 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	3	SUPER BABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	4	CELLULAR 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
5	THE GRUDGE 10.20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00	6	WHITE CHICKS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7	SHARK TALE 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5.40, 7:50, 10:00
8	THE SIN 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9	THE DOLL MASTER 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10.00	10	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:20, 2.00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 BEFORE SUNSET 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00

2	THE DOLL MASTER 10:20, 12:05, 2.00, 3:55, 5:50, 7.45, 9:40	3	THE GRUDGE 10:30, 12:30, 2.30, 4:30, 6:30 8.30, 10:00	4	CELLULAR 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4 30, 6:25, 8:25, 10 00
5	SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2 10:20, 12:05, 2.00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:45	6	WHITE CHICKS 10:20, 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7	SHARK TALE 10.20, 12:15, 2.10, 4 05, 6:00, 7.55, 9.50

METRO EAST

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1	THE DOLL MASTER 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6.50, 9:10	5	THE GRUDGE 10:25, 12:50, 3.15, 5:40, 8 05, 10:30
2	LADDER 49 10:20, 12:30, 4.50, 7.00, 9:10	6	SUPERBABIES:BABY GENIUSES 2 10 50, 1:10, 3:30, 5 50, 8.10, 10 30
3	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:40, 2.00, 4:20, 6:40, 9.00	7	WHITE CHICKS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
4	CELLULAR 10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 6:50, 9:00	8	STEAL 10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 6.50, 8.50, 10:30

NOVALICHES

935-3229 / 31

1	LADDER 49 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	5	SHARK TALE 10:30, 12 30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
2	WHITE CHICKS 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4 30, 6.30, 8:30	6	THE DOLL MASTER 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3	STEAL 10:30, 12.30, 2 30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30		HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6.00, 8.30
4	FENG SHUI 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30	8	SKY CAPTAIN 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6.00, 8:30

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1	A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE 11:45, 1.55, 4.05, 6.15, 8.30	3	DEAD PEOPLE 11:45, 1:55, 4.05, 6.15, 8:30
2	MINDHUNTERS 11:45, 1.55, 4:05, 6.15, 8.30	4	TUKSO...SI CHARITO 2 10:55, 12 50, 2.45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30

CAINTA

240-4661

1	INTERNET QUEEN 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20	3	THE DOLL MASTER 11.00, 1.20, 3.40, 6.00, 8.20
2	WHITE CHICKS 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50	4	ROOM SERVICE 10:20, 12 20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20

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Who are The Incredibles?

MyGlobe gives you an exclusive backgrounder on the world's favorite super family.

Mr. Incredible

Fifteen years (and fifty pounds) after he hung his supersuit, Mr. Incredible, once the best-known, most popular Super alive, has gone underground and is living as Bob Parr, a claims adjuster at possibly the world's worst insurance company. Though Taps' preoccupation with bygone days has taken a toll on him and his family, he is surprised to learn that his greatest adventures lay ahead.

Mrs. Incredible

Helen Parr, Bob's wife, formerly known as super-stretching Super Elastigirl, Mrs. Incredible, has adjusted to normal life quite well, and is busily focused on caring for her three children. While she occasionally uses her amazing stretching ability to meet the daily challenges of motherhood, she is careful to do so only behind the closed doors of their suburban home. She misses the old days, but doesn't dwell on them and only wishes Bob would do the same.

Jack-Jack

Jack-Jack is the black sheep of the family. The most unusual thing about him is how there's nothing unusual about him. But who knows? Like all babies, he has "incredible" pote

Violet

Violet Parr is, in most ways, a typical shy, insecure teenage girl stuck at the crossroads between child and woman. She, like her superhero parents, possesses special powers. It seems only right that hers ... disappear from problem ... especia ... despera ... Dang els ...

... all. His style, wit and ability to create ice from moisture in the air (not to mention his special multi-funct ... made him the envy of e ... loving little ... The ...

Syndrome

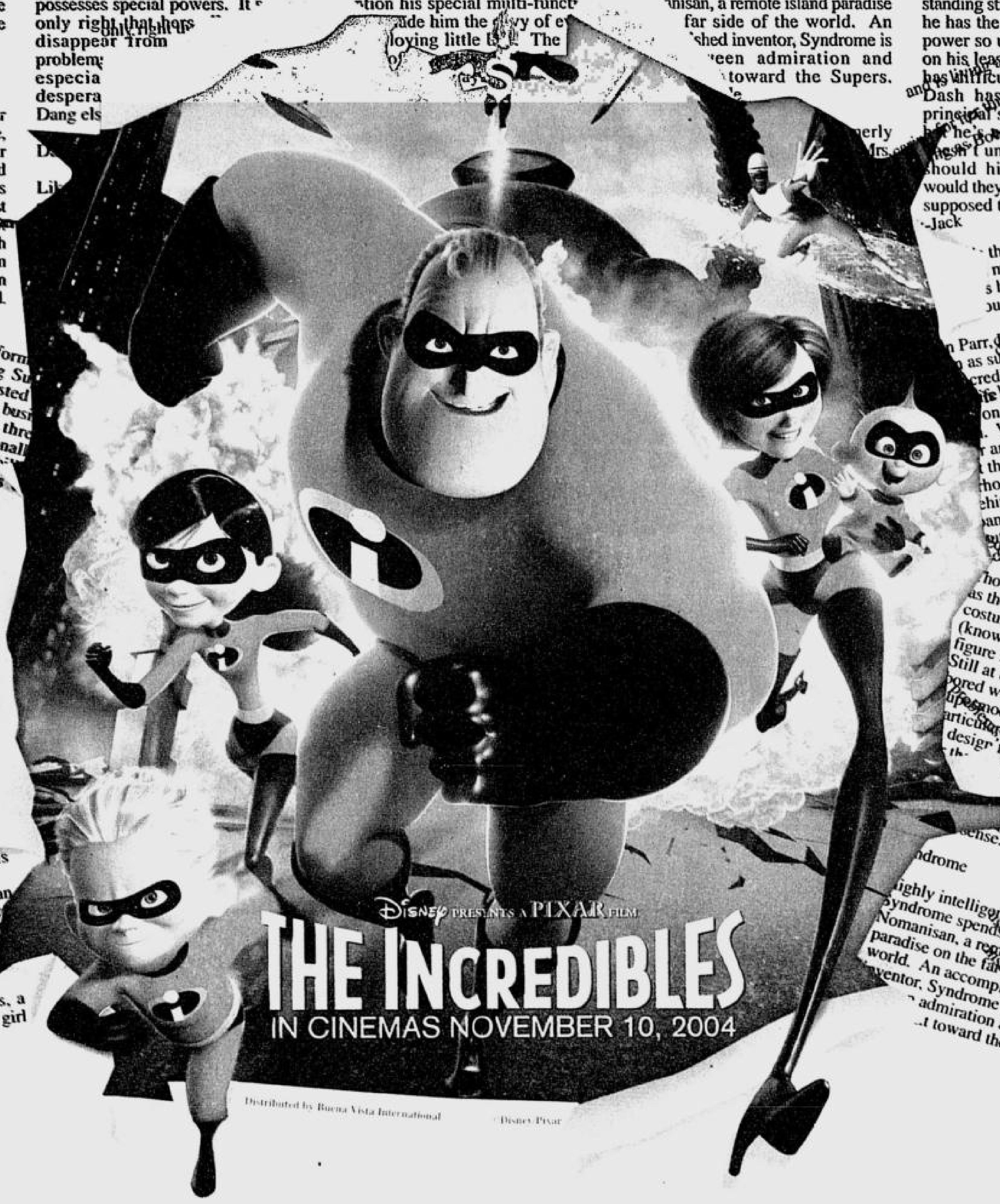
Highly intelligent and cunning, Syndrome spends his days on Nomanisan, a remote island paradise on the far side of the world. An accomplished inventor, Syndrome is torn between admiration and ... toward the Supers.

Dash

Like most ten year old boys, Dash seems to be moving even when standing still. Full of restless energy, he has the power of super speed; a power so useful for playing pranks on his least favorite teacher that he has difficulty keeping it in check. Dash has been called into the principal's office more than once, but he's never been caught. Dash doesn't understand why his family should hide their powers---why would they have them if they weren't supposed to use them?

Edna Mode

Though she first gained notoriety as the world's leading superhero costume designer, Edna Mode (known as E) remains a leading figure in international fashion. Still at the top of her game, E is bored with vapid, "brainless" supermodels, finding it particularly galling as she "used to design for Gods." She longs for the return of the Supers, for one ... sense.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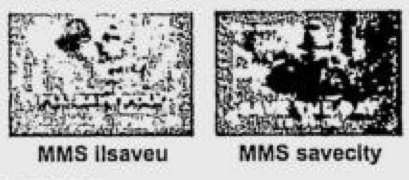

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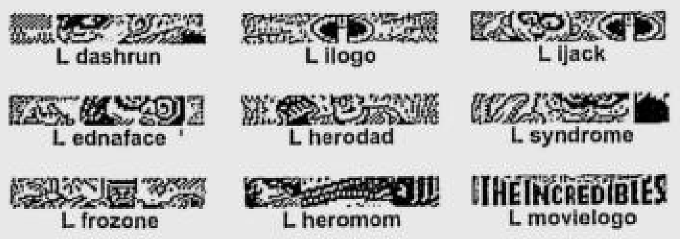

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L heromom
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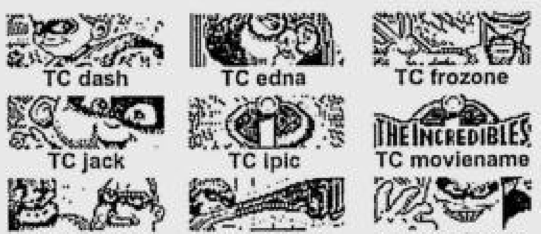

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TC edna
TC frozone
TC jack
TC ipic
TC moviename
TC dadhero
TC momhero
TC syndrome

TONES

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Kronos Unveiled	kronos
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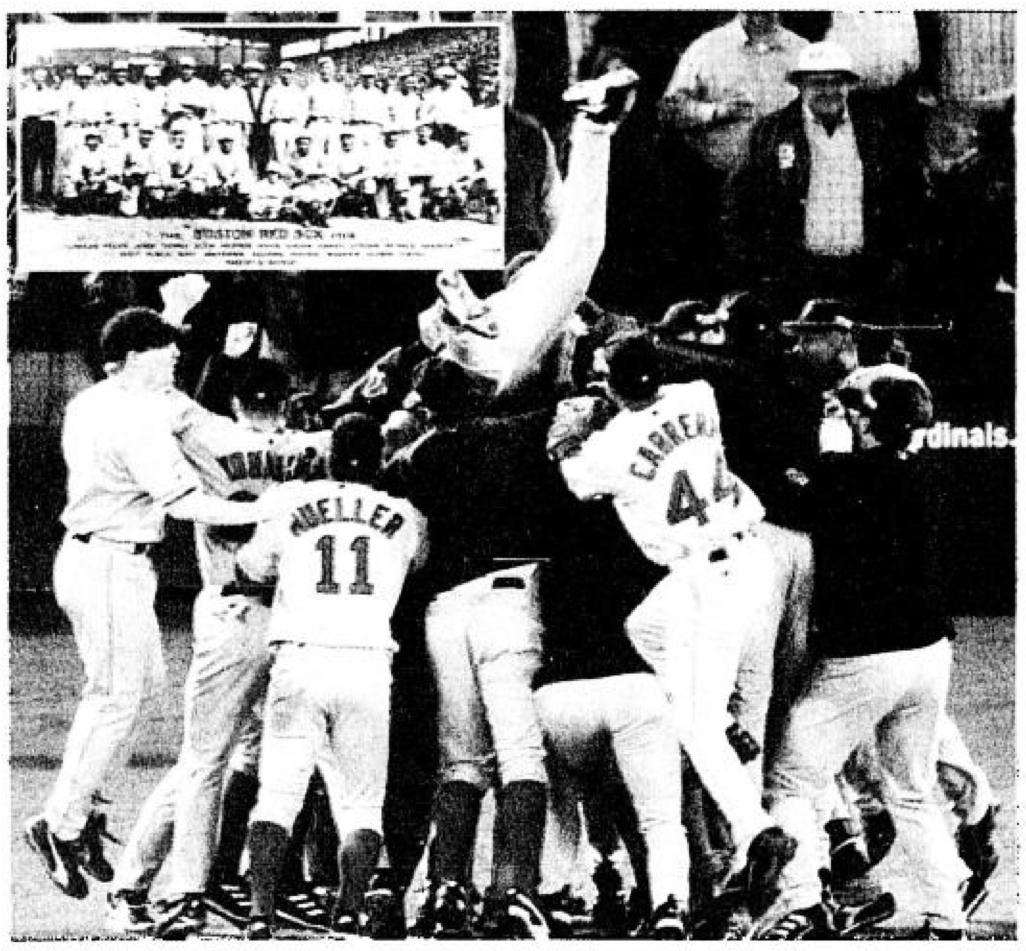


IN BETWEEN the 1918 Boston squad (inset) that won a World Series and this year's Red Sox team that swept St. Louis for the title was an 86-year-old curse that finally came to an end. AP

With the curse gone, Red Sox eye long reign

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—Only minutes after winning their first World Series championship since 1918, the Boston Red Sox began talking about having a long reign upon their barely warm throne.

The Red Sox blanked St. Louis, 3-0, Wednesday to complete a four-game sweep of Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final, bringing long-suffering Boston supporters their first crown in 86 years.

"To all the Red Sox fans, enjoy the celebration," general manager Theo Epstein said. "We'll do it again next year."

Series MVP Manny Ramirez, whose team-high seven hits included a home run, hopes to have such a title run that fans forget the ache of past failures.

"We're going to keep playing hard and blank out all the negativity," Ramirez said. "I told my wife before the season started, 'This is the year.' And we did it. We're the champs."

Curt Schilling, Game 2's winning pitcher despite a dislocated right ankle tendon, signed with the Red Sox this season to bring Boston a title and proved as good as his word.

"I'm just so happy I'm part of the club that finally did it," Schilling said, paying tribute to the long-ridiculed goat of a 1986 title bid that failed one out from a title. "I'm happy for the fans in Boston, for Bill Buckner."

The Red Sox made the greatest comeback in baseball playoff history just to reach the World Series, rallying after three losses to beat the rival New York Yankees four in a row to win the American League finals.

That experience came in handy when the time came to close out the Cardinals.

"We learned a lot when we played the Yankees," Ramirez said. "I was talking to some of the guys and I said, 'Let's go. Don't let those guys breathe.' Anything can happen."

Red Sox manager Terry Francona said he wants this team to be remembered for its achievements rather than snapping a skid that spanned generations.

"As winners—that's probably the only important thing for me, that we won," he said.

Francona was not a believer in the Curse of the Bambino—that the 1919 sale of Babe Ruth to the Yankees led to the Red Sox futility streak.

But Epstein said Ruth would have enjoyed the free spirits on this Red Sox club, especially long-haired leadoff hitter Johnny Damon, whose home run on the fourth pitch of the game provided all the scoring Boston needed.

"He and Damon would've had a good time hanging out together," Epstein said. *AFP*

Remembering the Payne

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Paul Azinger rarely plays in a golf tournament without something reminding him of Payne Stewart, and the memories were particularly strong during The Funai Classic at Disney.

Monday marked the five-year anniversary of the plane crash that killed Stewart and five others.

Disney was the last tournament he played.

Three days after he missed the cut by one shot, Stewart boarded a private plane for a meeting on a golf course project in Dallas and then to play the Tour Championship in Houston. The plane lost cabin pressure and flew uncontrolled across the country until it ran out of fuel and plunged into a field in South Dakota.

Azinger and Stewart were partners for the first two pro-am rounds at Disney that year. Even though he shot 71-71, Stewart managed to make headlines by speaking in a mock Chinese accent on ESPN during a rain delay to retaliate for comments British golf analyst Peter Alliss had made about the US Ryder Cup team.

STEWART: Never forgotten

"I watched him do it," Azinger said, smiling and shaking his head. "He comes over to me and says, 'Hey, that was pretty funny, huh?' I told him, 'Congratulations, Payne. You just insulted about 3 billion people.'"

Azinger remembers the loose lips, the pranks, the jabs. He remembers their favorite fishing spot behind the fifth hole on the Magnolia course, where they once came across a rattlesnake on a dirt path and hit 1-irons at it. Tom Lehman remembers, too.

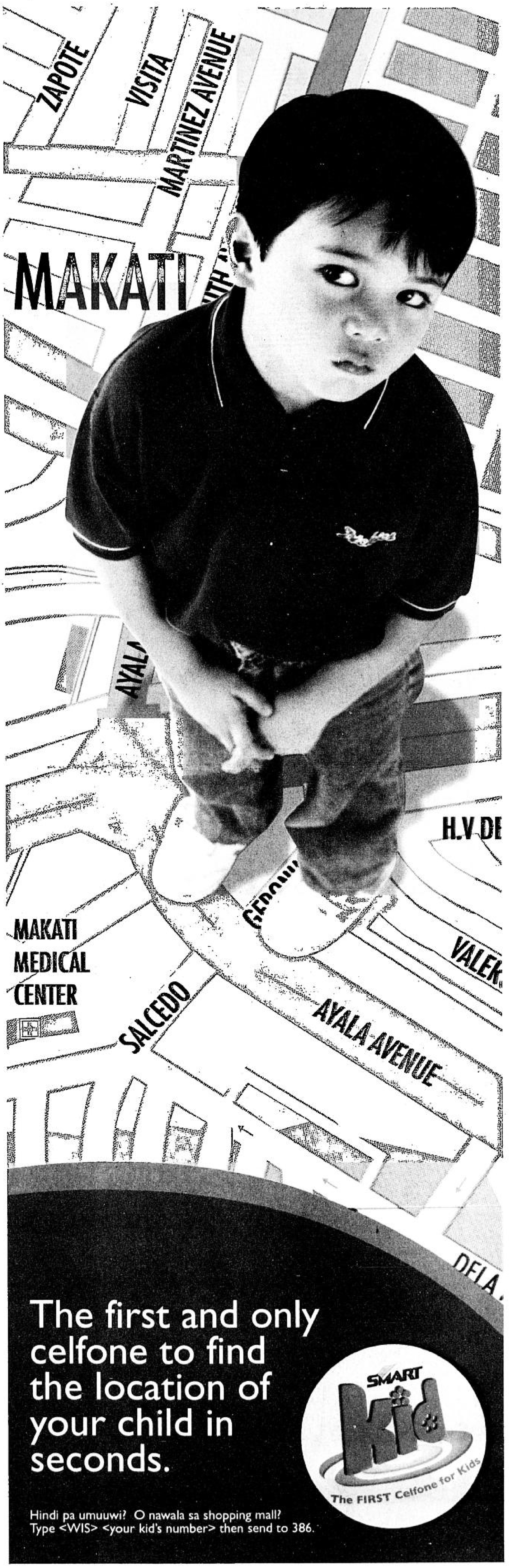
He delivered a powerful tribute to Stewart during a chilling ceremony before the start of the '99 Tour Championship, where an eerie fog shrouded the first fairway as players sat in shock. Lehman tries to have dinner with Stewart's widow, Tracey, every time he comes to Orlando for Bay Hill or Disney.

"I think about Payne fairly frequently," Lehman said. "It could be anything—highlights of a golf tournament, a guy in knickers, thinking about the Ryder Cup, coming to Orlando, getting on a private jet. You don't want to forget. I don't know if you want to dwell on what happened five years ago, but you don't want to forget."

Anyone who goes in the locker room at Disney cannot forget Stewart.

Past champions have their own row of lockers. Stewart's locker has a glass door to show its contents— a pair of red plus-fours on a hanger, a white shirt with his silhouette stitched in navy blue. A white tam-o'-shanter cap is on a hook above white shoes and a worn glove. A box of golf balls is on the top shelf.

One look at the balls—a black box of Titleist Tour Prestige, a wound golf ball now obsolete—was a reminder of how long ago it seems that the reigning US Open champion died. *AP*



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Mimosa hosts nat'l duathlon

MORE than 150 duathletes from all over Central and Southern Luzon, Metro Manila and even the Visayas are expected to participate when Mimosa-Montevista Villas hosts the 3rd National Duathlon Championship on Nov. 7.

Starting and ending at the grounds of the Mimosa Golf Academy inside the sprawling Clark Special Economic Zone, the 10-K run, 40-K bike, 5-K run will see defending champion Ryan Mendoza going for his third straight title.

Challenging him are fellow national Jeff Valdes, national triathletes led by Eldy Banluta and marathoner Mamerto Corpuz.

A wide open race is expected in the women's division of the event, sponsored by Speedo, Clark Development Corp. and Reliv, in the absence of defending champion Michelle Ferrer.

Favorites include national triathlon champion Ani de Leon, Popo Nagtalon, Kaye Lopez and Bing Alto, the last three fresh from their stint with the national cycling team. The Yambao sisters, Lisa and Luisa, are also rated highly while Sen. Pia Cayetano is expected to join.

"We are happy to be part of this big sports event and we are looking forward to an even more active participation next year," said Karen Meneses, sales and marketing manager of Montevista Villas.

Aside from the regular distance, the event will also feature a sprint duathlon, a 5-K run, 20-K bike, 2.5-K run for 19 and below and executives. Registration fee is P700 while onsite registration is P1,000. Registration forms are available at all Speedo Concept Stores in Metro Manila.

Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco Jr. said the event will be used by TRAP as one of the qualifying events to select representatives to international competitions next year.

With the scrapping of the duathlon events in next year's SEA Games here in Manila, TRAP is eyeing the Asian Duathlon Championship in Thailand and the World Duathlon Championship in New South Wales in Australia next year to give its athletes more exposure.

SOCCER CHAMP: German soccer champion Werder Bremen's forwarder Miroslav Klose celebrates his goal against VfB Stuttgart with a somersault during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match in Stuttgart, Oct. 27. REUTERS

Run set in Cebu Nov. 28

A NEW ROUTE and post-race activities will highlight the third Queen City Run at the Cebu South Coastal Road on Sunday, Nov. 28.

This event, presented by Converse and MTV Philippines, is dubbed as "Asia's first Mardi Gras run." An annual project of the Cebu Visitors and Conventional Bureau (CVCB) in partnership with the Cebu City Government and the Department of Tourism-Region VII, it is presented by Innove (Globe Broadband) and Cebu Pacific, the event's official airline.

Spanning a distance of 13.4 kilometers, starting and finishing at Kawit Point in the Cebu South Reclamation Project (SRP), the race is expected to draw over 8,000 participants this year.

During the first two editions of the Queen City Run, which was joined by thousands of participants, the race started from Lapu-Lapu City and finished at the Asiatown IT Park in Lahug.

A 5-km wheelchair event will be held as an added attraction.

Those interested can register at #2 Don J. Llorente Street, Capitol, Cebu City (across the former HSBC Building at corner Juana Osmeña Street) or at the CVCB office at the mezzanine floor of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino.

For information, contact the QCR Secretariat c/o Tourkonsult and Management Inc. at 2551-250 or the CVCB'office at 2326888 local 8913 and look for Marcie Abesamis.

Sports Center to open beach volleyball court

CANTADA Sports Center is inaugurating its beach volleyball court in Taguig with a whole-day beach volleyball party on Saturday, Nov. 6.

The event will feature a one-day all-female tournament in both open and collegiate categories. Food and drinks will be served to participants and guests, while music will be provided by a known DJ.

The state-of-the-art beach volleyball court boasts uniform-grain washed sand, a professionally designed drainage system, very adequate lighting, immaculate shower and locker facilities and a lightning-detector system that is widely used in golf courses and various playing fields in the United States.

Highlights of the event will be aired on a major television network. Joe Cantada Sports, producer of the top television boxing show "Fistorama," will likewise handle the production.

Aside from its beach volleyball court, Cantada Sports Center has a golf academy, a modern shooting range, an air-conditioned basketball gym with a wooden floor identical to that of the Ultra and the Araneta Center, a boxing arena with an original Everlast ring, a fitness and boxing gym with top-of-the-line equipment, a three-court badminton facility, a children's playground with pony rides, lodging facilities, function rooms and sports lounges.

The tournament is open to all school and non-school affiliated teams. There will be no entry fees and cash prizes will be at stake. For details, call 0917-8332353, 0917-8170212 or 8443143.

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FISHING TILT: Past Anglers of the Year Rico Gueco (right) and Bong Nery Jr., champion team; Tony Espejo, second place; and Philippine Game Fishing Foundation president Judes Echauz and Tina Bernasconi, third place; with other competitors in the recent Playdium Bowling & Billiards Corp. fishing tournament held in Lian, Batangas.

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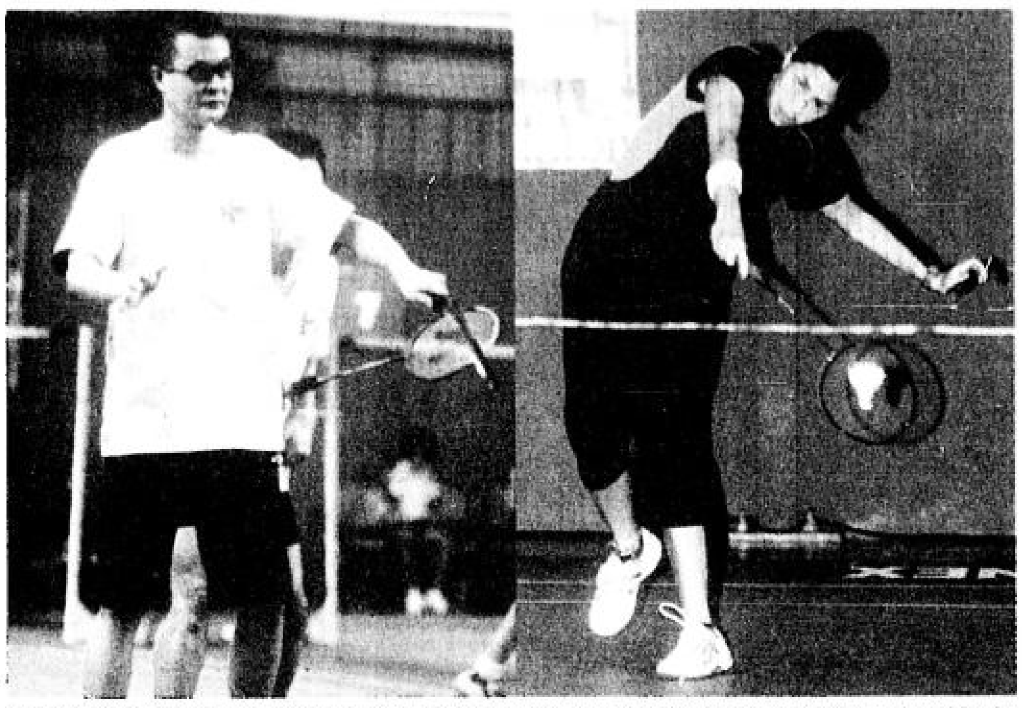


THE ZONE'S Bubu Lim and Manila Polo Club's Rina Samson lead their squads to the national finals.

PLATINUM CUP

North elims start today

PREMIER City Club, Celebrity Sports Club and the Olympic Badminton Club loom as the teams to watch when the biggest eliminations leg of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Platinum Cup unfurls today in Libis, Quezon City.

Premier, Celebrity and Olympic are three of the 18 teams in the field belonging to the North sector of a Metro Manila-wide qualifying field for the Platinum Cup, which is co-presented by INQUIRER Badminton and Globe Platinum.

The North area qualifying at the giant Olympic Badminton Club is the fourth and last leg of the eliminations of the country's first showdown among badminton courts and facilities. And because of the size of the field, organizers have allotted three spots for the North area.

The other teams in the cast are Woosh, Libis Badminton Center, Serve N Smash, Battledore&Shuttlecock, Yellow Feather, Chut's, Toss N Smash, Sureplay-Murphy, Sureplay-Araneta, Don Antonio Sports Center, Banawe Badminton Arcade, Star Smash, Greencourt, C4 and Pinnacle.

Major sponsors include Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, Mizuno Badminton and LTime Studio. Nestlé is the official drink provider, Gerflor Taraflex the official mat sponsor, Gosen the official shuttlecock, Westin Philippine Plaza the official hotel.

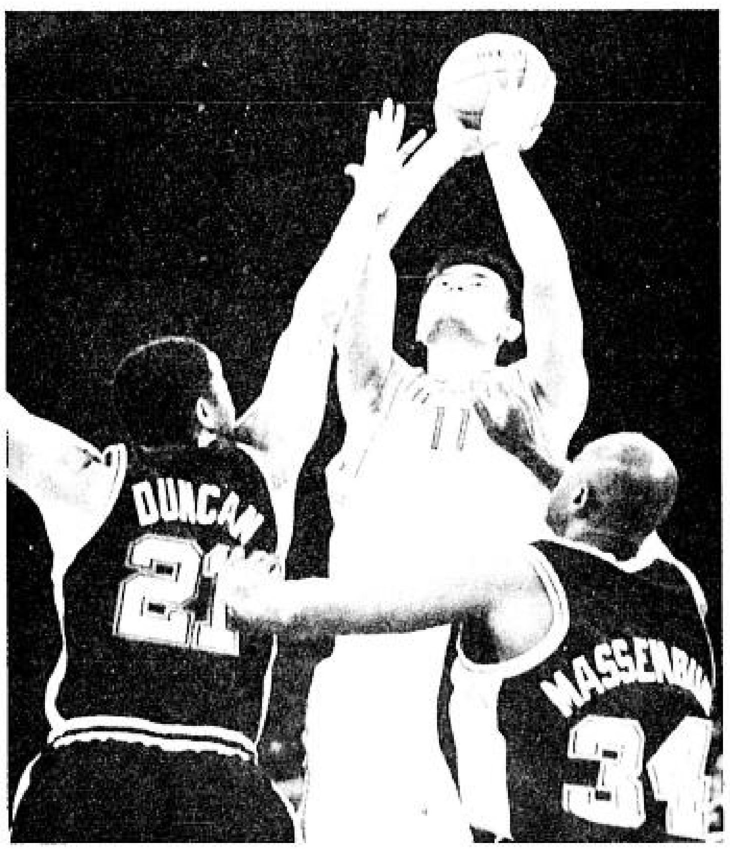
Teams competing will be divided into three groups with the No. 1 team in each advancing to the finals. The three teams will then decide among themselves the area champion.

Celebrity's campaign is bannered by former squash champs Manny Boy and Chiqui Yam, Premier is counting on Adrain Co and Rommie Tan, while the Olympic bid is dependent on John Solquillo and Michael Bartolome.

Faith, Cavite rule UPWC

WRESTLERS from Cavite and Faith Academy led the winners of the fourth Open Wrestling Tournament, Premier Division of the University of the Philippines' Wrestling Club (UP-WC) last Saturday in Quezon City.

Topping the different divisions were: Arnel Tizon of Cavite (-50kg), Elmer Navarro of Cavite (-55kg), Antonio Gonato of the Philippine Navy (-60kg), Steve Elliott of Faith Academy (-65kg), Micah Collins of Faith Academy (-75kg), Froilan Sarenas of UPWC (-80kg), Walden Carbonell of Submission Sports (-85kg), and TJ Tiu of DLSU (-85kg).



LAND OF THE GIANTS The Houston Rockets' 7-foot-6 center Yao Ming towers as he shoots over San Antonio Spurs' 7-foot-1 forward Tim Duncan (left) and 6-foot-9 Tony Massenburg in a preseason game between both teams featuring two of the National Basketball Association's best big men. Duncan's Spurs got the better of the match, beating Yao's Rockets, 76-69, at the Laredo Entertainment Center in Texas on Oct. 27. AP

Hoop promo slated

BASKETBALL footwear and apparel brand AND1 is holding a special promo to celebrate the arrival of the famed AND1 Mix Tape Tour in the Philippines.

The AND1 Mix Tape Tour is a special event featuring streetball legends like Philip "Hot Sauce" Champion and Lonnie "Prime Objective" Harrel.

For every P3,000 purchase of regular items, customers get two free tickets to the AND1 Mix Tape Tour game this Nov. 6 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sharks whip Kings for 5th straight win

THE BLUE Sharks maintained their record clean with a 79-72 repeat over the Kings last Saturday at the Makati Coliseum for its fifth straight victory in the Ambassador's Cup of the 2004 FIBL.

It was a Blue Sharks game all the way after posting a 38-22 lead midway in the second quarter behind the offensive effort of Rakesh Chandumal, who topscored for the Blue Sharks with 42 points.

The Kings' cause was hurt by their very poor shooting from the freethrow area and compounded further by the absence again of their injured playing co-owner Mike Advani.

Despite their loss, the Kings, now with a 2-3 record, are still assured of a semifinals slot regardless of the outcome of their game against the defending champion Bombay Bombers, who lost anew to the Knights in the second game, 80-59.

STANDINGS	W	L
Blue Sharks	5	0
Kings	2	3
Knights	2	3
Bombay Bombers	1	4

GAMES Oct. 31 ***(Makati Coliseum)***
2:30 p.m.—Knights vs Blue Sharks
4:30 p.m.—Kings vs Bombay Bombers
6:30 p.m.—Little Knights vs Royals (Jr)

The Knights' Mukesh Mohnani was unstoppable with his 35 points. The Knights posted a runaway 80-59 victory over the Bombers and assured themselves of a semifinals berth with that win.

With their 1-4 win-loss record, the Bombers are in a must win situation tomorrow, when they face the Knights following the Blue Sharks-Knights tussle at 2:30 p.m.

In the junior division the Little Knights beat the Bobcats, 47-42, and go for their fourth win tomorrow against the Royal.

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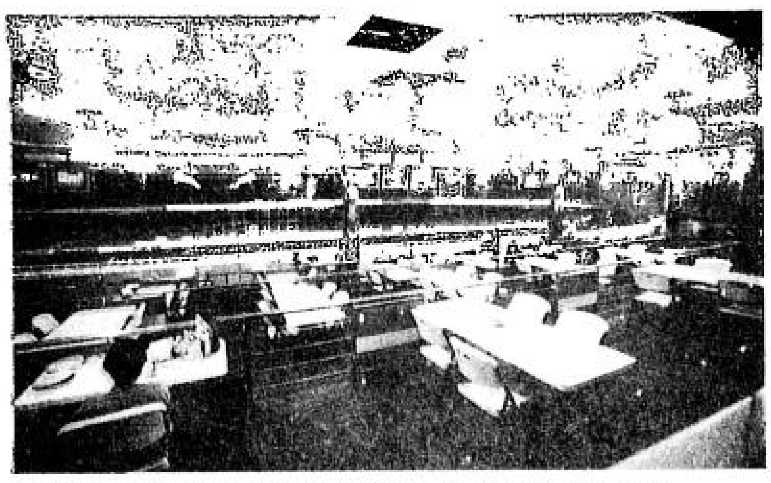
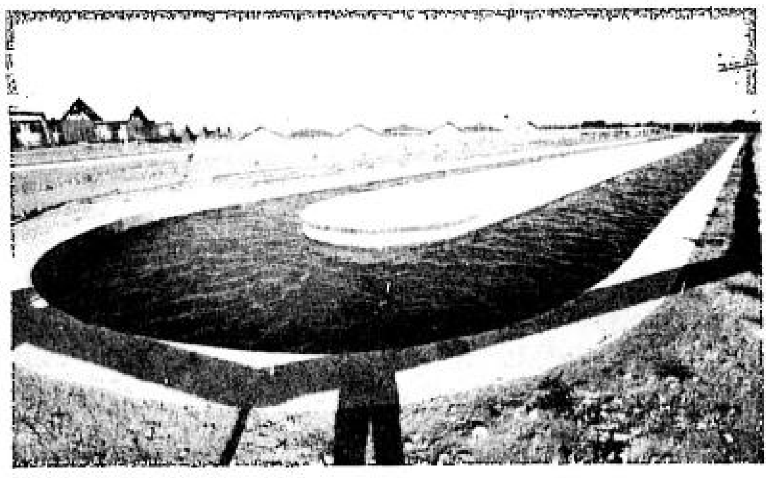


GOOD FOOD is the hallmark of the spacious VIP restaurant.



THE EXERCISE pool for horses looks enticing for a quick splash.

HORSES ARE kept in well-ventilated, air-conditioned stables before the races.

A world-class venue for the 'Sport of Kings'

SPANKING CLEAN and fully automated, the ticket counters make betting , win or lose, a pleasant experience.

By Musong R. Castillo

THERE is no mistaking the stench, it hits you from several hundred meters away.

Horse dung made that area in Tayuman and Felix Huertas Streets smell that way, the foul odor that characterized the San Lazaro Hippodrome area, the erstwhile house of the "Sport of Kings."

But that whiff has long been gone, and the loud call of the races during weekends, which woke up several barangays surrounding the old "Hippodromo," went with it.

From where once lay the bastion of one of the oldest recreational activities in the country will stand another facility that will attract the crowds once more, but not in the same manner in which the masses before them came—in droves—to witness the finest real-life action only man and horse can bring.

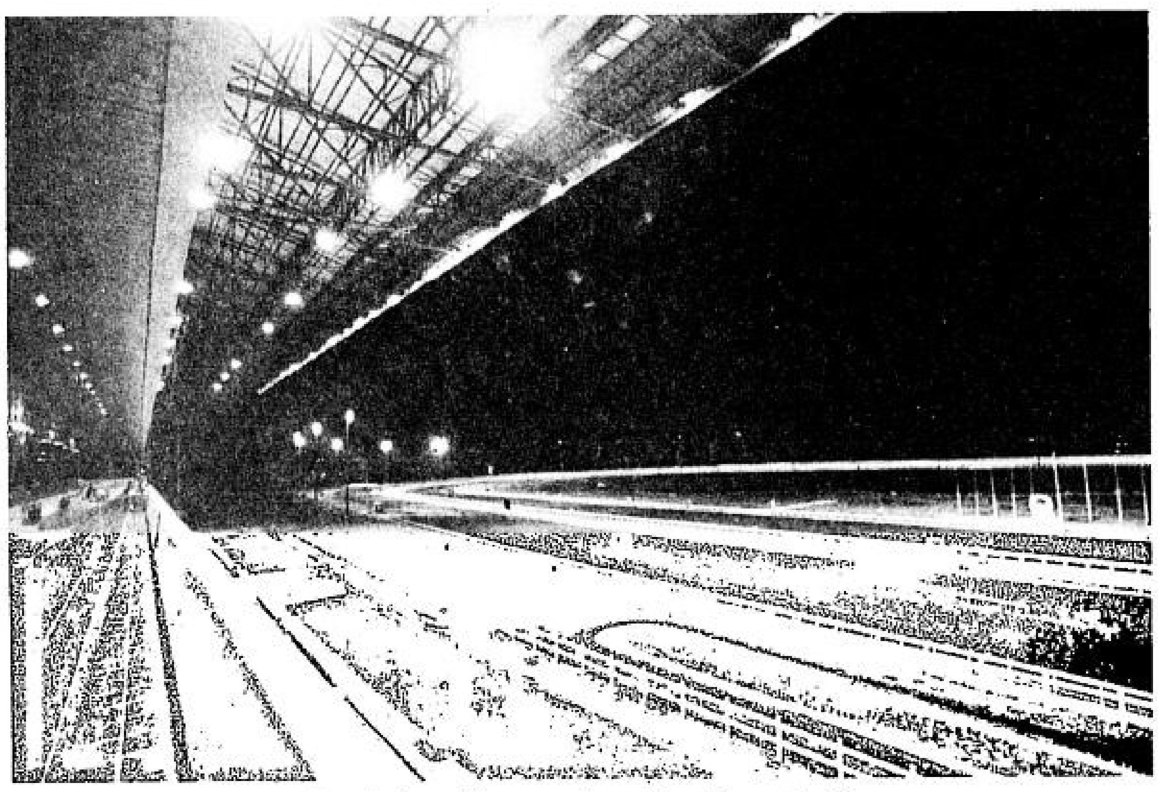
What started out as a social club of 100 select members the Prieto family helped put up in 1867 has gone high-tech, after a consortium headed by lawyer Alfonso Reyno, which bought that old edifice in Sta. Cruz, transferred operations to a 77-hectare lot in Carmona, Cavite.

Make your way to the ultramodern world of the San Lazaro Leisure Park, where the new owners have started to take Philippine horseracing to new heights with a racing facility designed to be at par with the best racetracks in the world.

"This is the vision Atty. Reyno is passionately trying to fulfill," said director Martin Cepeda, also the man in charge of racing operations of the SLLP. "He has put in a lot of work—and money—in this and he is proud of what he has so far accomplished."

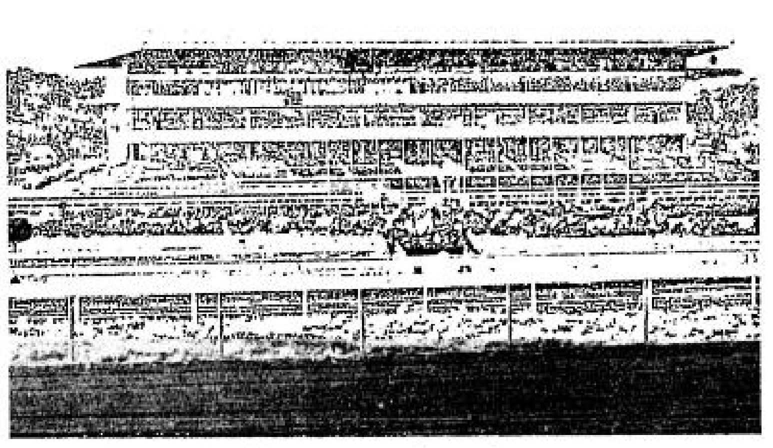
"And he will not stop until this facility truly becomes state of the art."

State-of-the-art has so far meant P1.5 billion in expenses and counting, and other infrastructures will rise in the next few years, the most immediate being the equestrian facility to be used for the Southeast Asian Games the country is hosting next year.



ADEQUATE LIGHTING and fresh air combine to make a night visit worthwhile.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



THE MAIN grandstand towers over the track.

Sadamichi, a Japanese racetrack builder of world-class caliber, was personally brought over to oversee the construction of the SLLP track, which is made up of five layers of various materials to ensure safety of jockey and horse.

The Recio and Casas architectural firm worked on the buildings, which offer a great view of the races and comfortable air-conditioned lounges and a grandstand that can accommodate a throng and make one's long trip to Carmona worth it.

The old San Lazaro was sold to mall developers by Reyno's group, its 16-hectares fetching a princely P15,000 per square meter.

But why was it sold, when business was doing well and when 95 percent of all sales now come from OTBs?

The better query would be: Why spend a bundle on fixing one thing that was not broken in the first place?

About the only thing old in this new facility is the official results tower, that two-layered makeup in the saddling paddock with a virtual compass in the roof where the numbers of the race winners are posted as well as the next post time.

But then again, even that one still works perfectly well.

To justify the move, Reyno's group said it wishes to see a chain reaction, expecting horse owners and breeders to follow suit by acquiring more expensive, better chargers, and putting Philippine horseracing in the Asian map in the short term and in the world chart in the long run.

"Better horses would make for better races. Better races would mean better sales, and better sales would ultimately mean bigger purses for them," Cepeda explained.

And it has started to happen. Regular races these days give out a guaranteed prize of P125,000 to the winning horse. Cepeda bared that they would want that to shoot up to something like P400,000 per race.

"And now that we have a racetrack that could compare and even beat the best ones in Asia, we can invite (horse) owners from all over to race here and put this in the international map. That is the ultimate vision of Atty. Reyno."

"He (Reyno) can now go to meetings and horseracing conventions abroad and tell everyone of this facility. Before, he had to keep quiet because he had very little to talk about."

The first international race in the country is already in the works, as the Klub Don Juan de Manila, a group of owners who named their organization after the late Johnny Ismael's great horse of the 1950s, has already been staging the "Don Juan championship races."

Stepping onto the lobby of the SLLP alone gives one a different feeling. It's like making your way into a five-star hotel although this time you are greeted by betting machines and the spectacular view of the track without bumping people out of the way for a good view.

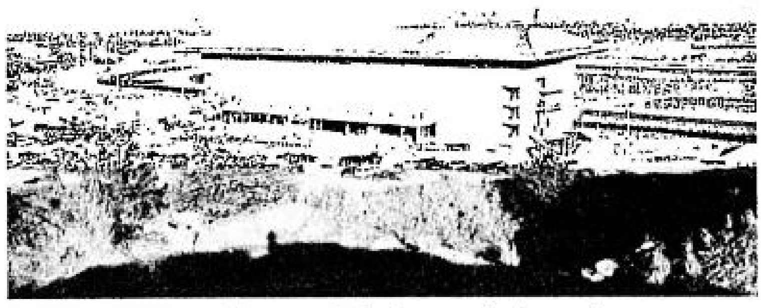
"It's world-class, definitely," said chair emeritus Leo Prieto, who sold the Manila Jockey Club to Reyno for P2 billion and who fervently follows the evolution of the sport—and its venue—even to this day.

"People who rode horses in those days had thought of putting up a club where they can see their special horses, like special cars today, in action," Prieto explained. "And I am proud to say that my forefathers were among those who started it all."

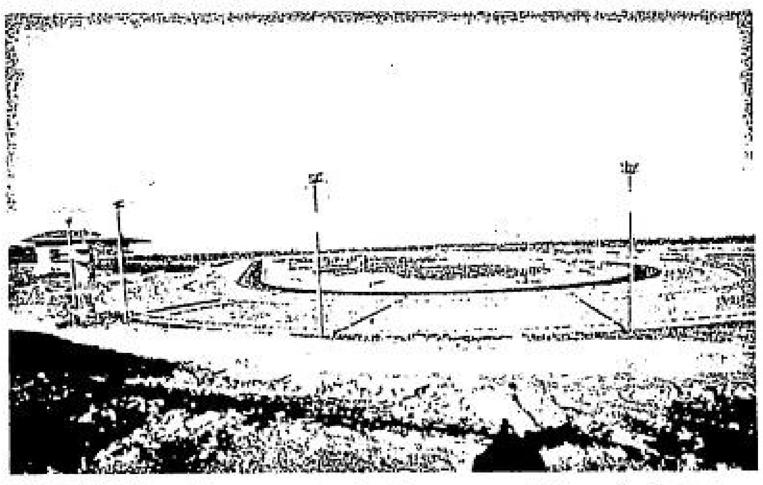
Prieto recalled making trips to Spain just to see what racetracks there are like, applying what he saw when he owned the Manila Jockey Club. And in the few times that he was invited to the new track, it was like seeing his baby turn into a handsome boy.

"The Manila Jockey Club is in good, able hands," he said.

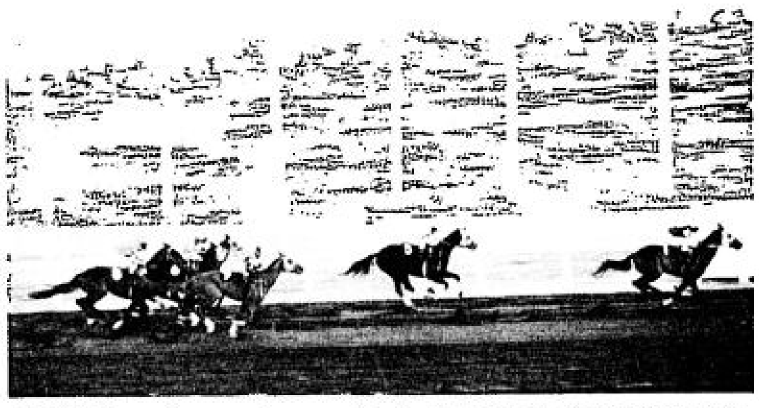
And there's one other thing that's a sure bet at the SLLP, the air there is fresh.



THE BUILDING turf juts out of the flat terrain from a distance.



THE TRACK oval shapes up to what is now one of the region's best.



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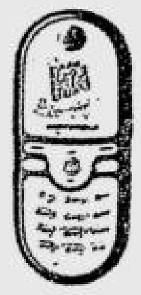

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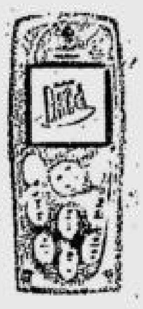

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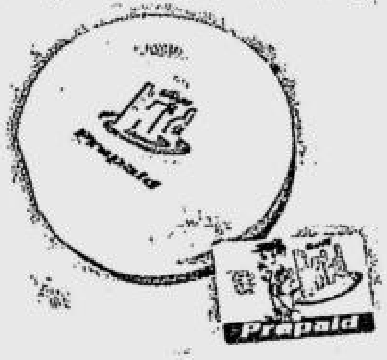

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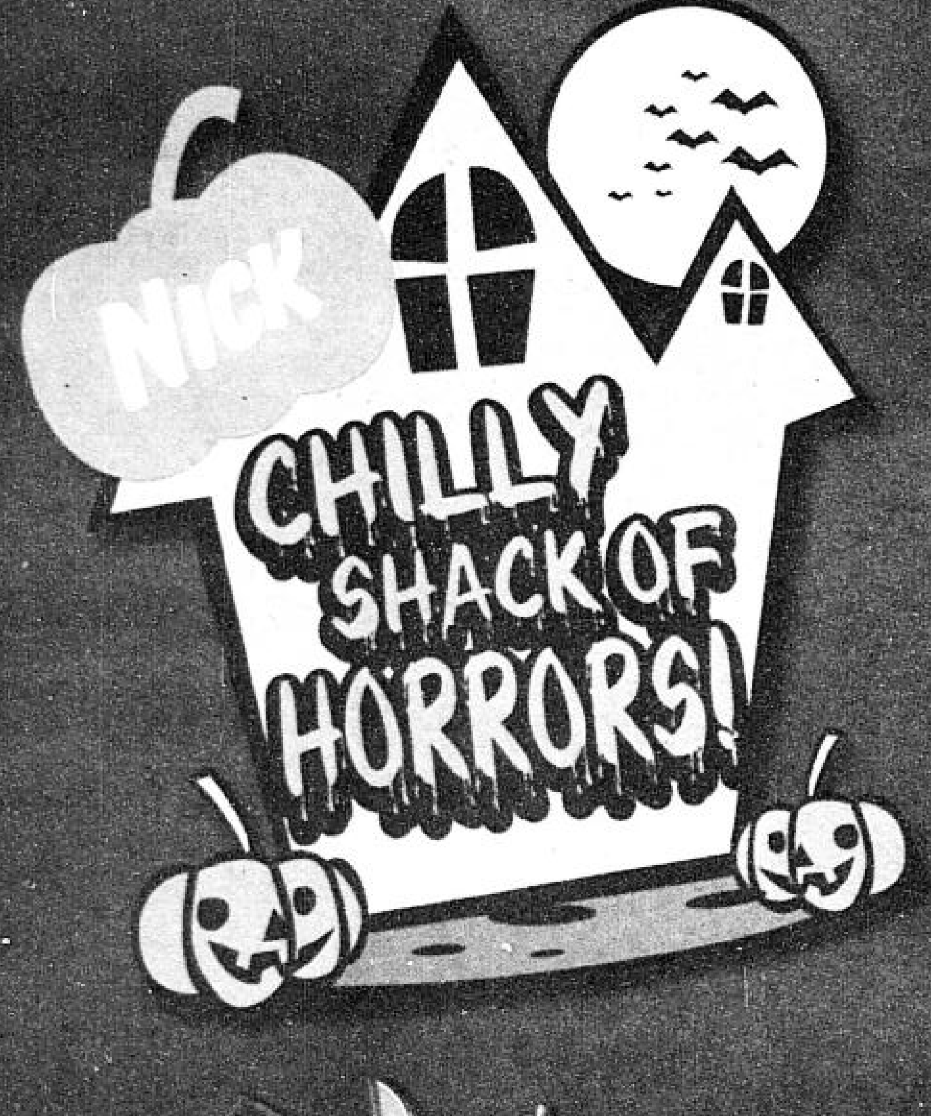

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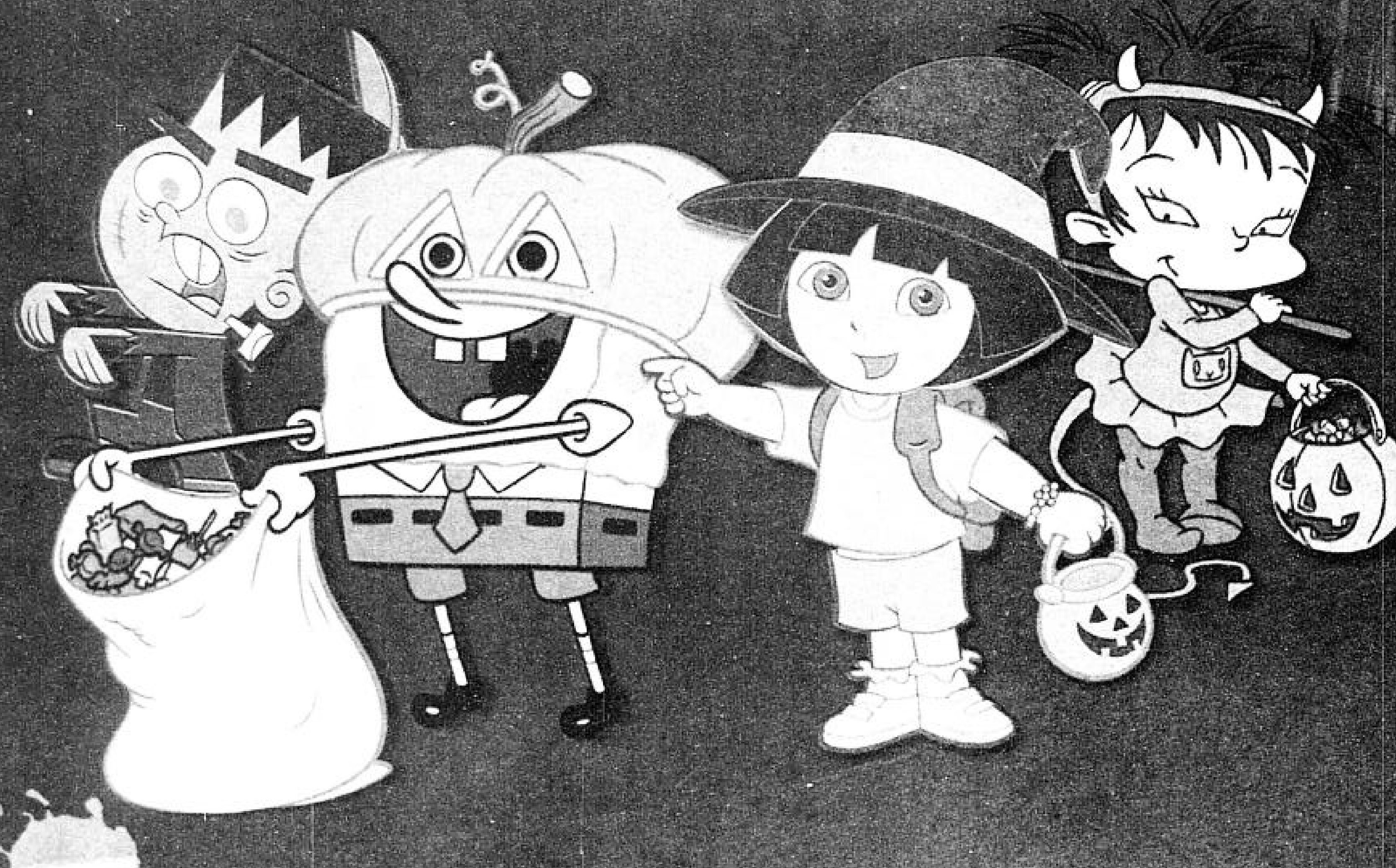

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SATURDAY Special

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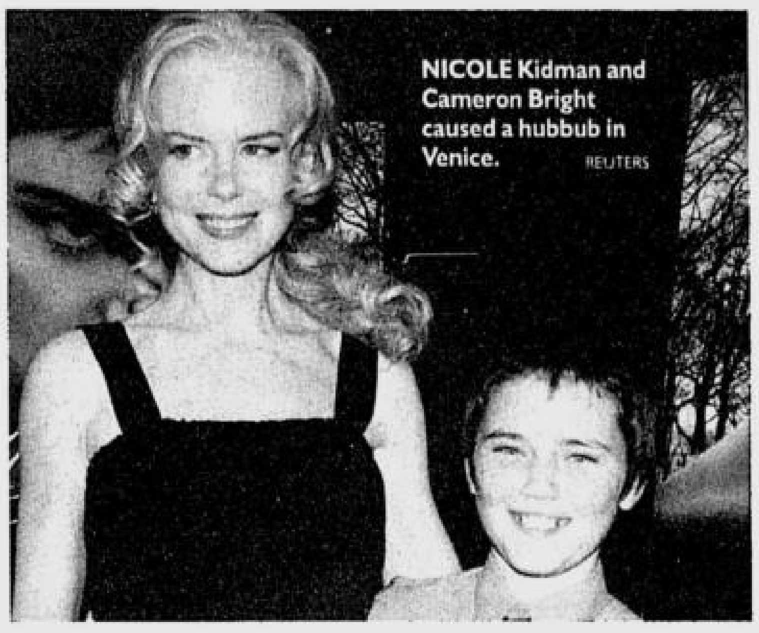
Kidman says 'Birth' is about love


NICOLE Kidman and Cameron Bright caused a hubbub in Venice. REUTERS

NEW YORK—In the new film, "Birth," Nicole Kidman stars as a woman who believes her dead husband is inhabiting a 10-year-old boy's body.

At first, Kidman's character dismisses the boy's claims, but his intensity and conviction begin to sway her, and she starts to fall in love with him.

Chaste

Though the moment is chaste, a scene in which Kidman and the boy (played by Cameron Bright) share a bathtub, caused a hubbub and drew boos when "Birth" was screened at the Venice Film Festival.

"This is a beautiful film about love. I do not see it as something that is exploitive or distasteful," the 37-year-old actress told AP Television News.

"Because of my work, the things I choose to do are very important to me," Kidman said.

She added: "What drew me to this film is that, it is about the strength and the memory of love, the desire to have something that exists forever."

Lauren Bacall, who plays Kidman's mother in the movie, became irritated during an interview on British television last month when Kidman was described as a "legend."

Legend

"She's not a legend," said Bacall, cutting off the interviewer in mid-sentence. "She can't be a legend at whatever age she is. You have to be older."

Kidman told APTN that she and Bacall, 80, are firm friends.

"I adore her," she said. "She has been good to me. I have known her for quite sometime. She's a survivor and yet, she has enormous generosity in terms of her knowledge and protection. She is very maternal with me."

AP

Nothing new in latest 'SCQ' season

By Noelani Torre

BY having their contestants go through all sorts of tests, the makers of Star Circle Quest seem bent on proving that making it in show business is no easy thing. At the end of the day, questors—which is what they call the *artista* wannabes—must show that they can sing, dance, act, look good, and hold their cool in front of a distressingly frank trio of jurors.

We've been tuning in to ABS-CBN now that its search has gone national. Now called the "Star Circle National Teen Quest," the talent search has been widening its horizons by auditioning talented teens from all over the country.

Still, the selection largely remains Manila-centric, with the National Capital Region having the greatest number of candidates.

Process

The process remains pretty much the same. Modeled after the ultra-successful "American Idol," Quest has its versions of the former's now-famous judging trio in the persons of Boy Abunda, Gloria Diaz and Laurenti Dyogi.

Abunda seems to be trying to be another Simon Cowell, but his brand of frankness isn't as amusing as the latter's. The fact that Cowell also made sharp criticism *his* signature style already works against Abunda, as well as the fact that our culture is a lot different.

And if Diaz is supposed to provide sympathy *a la* Paula Abdul, well, it isn't working. She's almost as volubly critical as Abunda and as such, presents no contrast to his style.

We watch this show not only for the contestants, but also for the judges. Thus, we would like to see jurors who are *really* judging. We're not saying that Abunda and company aren't. But, have a listen to their comments and you'll be like—huh?

Out of nowhere

Some of the things they say seem to come out of nowhere, making their choices appear arbitrary. Oh, and you could also try counting how many times they say something along the lines of well-you-have-no-talent-but-you-look-good-so-you're-in. Now *that's* reality, don't you think?

After all, how many established *artistas* who can sing, dance *and* act do you know? And we don't mean *otso-otso* dancing, prerecorded singing, or wail and sob-style acting, either.

We're not quite comfortable with their critiquing style. Not that there's anything wrong with honesty *per se*, but we'd feel better about it if the contestants didn't look so terrified, or ended up in tears as often as they do.

Frankness not being a particularly Filipino trait, perhaps it would help if the contestants psyched themselves up before facing the panel.

Problematic

Also problematic are the "exercises" that the judges make the questors do. Watching them, we felt pity for the poor questors, as well as a little embarrassment for their sake. The judges end up looking like puppet masters with a sadistic streak.

The show also missed the opportunity to make some interesting television by not having the jurors do all the screening, instead of presenting them with a prescreened selection.

It may not have been feasible due to the jurors' schedules, but we would have enjoyed watching something like William Hung's audition.

Leo Martinez aims to instill sense of nationalism in local films

By Remy Umerez

MARTINEZ. FAP Director General.

LEO Martinez is anything but the wily congressman Manhik Manaog he portrays on television. He shares the same passion with his TV alter ego, though, when he fights for things he strongly believes in.

Leo was appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as Director General of the Film Academy of the Philippines. He values the opportunity to protect the interest of artists like himself.

Glamour

Martinez brought glamour back to the last FAP awards night.

But, the most important change was made in the award's selection process. Leo helped raise funds to purchase computers for guild members who still use manual typewriters. Also, FAP now has its own website.

Another achievement Leo is proud of is the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Bureau of Immigration. Any foreign film company who wants to shoot in the country has to register with the FAP

LEO/ A2-2

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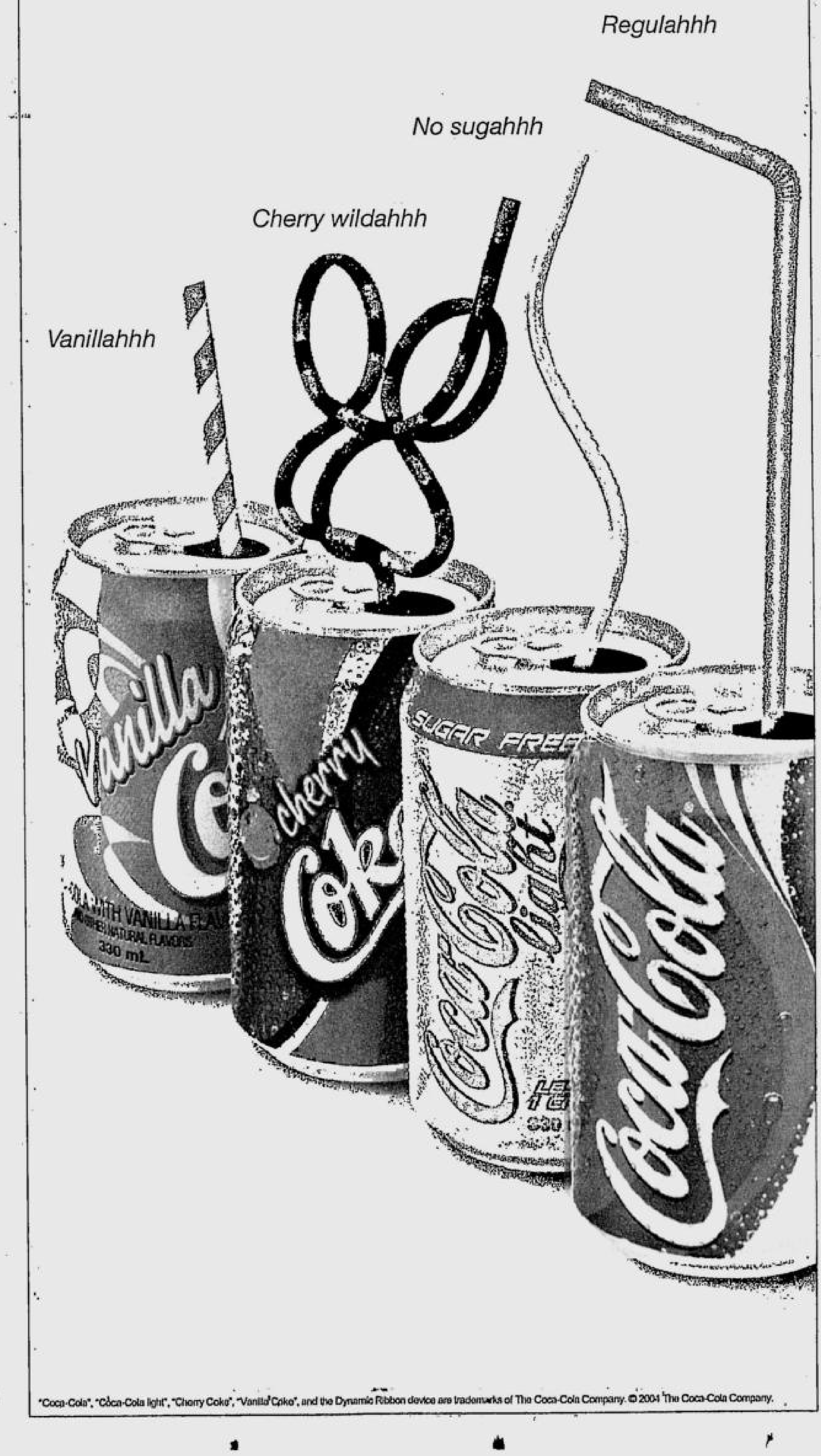

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Ray Charles movie generates early Oscar buzz for Jamie Foxx

FOXX as the legendary musician.

LOS ANGELES—Cinema's highest awards are still four months away, the same length of time that Ray Charles has been dead, but frenzied Oscar "buzz" is already swirling around a new film about the music legend.

The biopic, "Ray," starring sizzling Hollywood property Jamie Foxx, opened last week in theaters, but the tinseltown chatter about its Academy Awards potential is already deafening.

"The Oscars race has begun, and Jamie Foxx is a clear frontrunner for best actor," awards expert Tom O'Neil told AFP.

"He is getting unanimous rave reviews on a role based on a real-life hero, which is always a good formula for courting Oscar," he said.

Prosthetic eyelids

In the film, which "An Officer and a Gentleman" director Taylor Hackford battled to make for 15 years, the 36-year-old Foxx convincingly lures viewers into the darkened world of the blind musician.

During the two months of filming, Foxx, who starred opposite Tom Cruise in the 2004 thriller, "Collateral," donned uncomfortable prosthetic eyelids to simulate blindness and played Charles's famed music note for note on the piano.

"It was awful, but there's no other way to do it," Foxx told the Los Angeles Times of his 14-hours-a-day of self-imposed darkness. "Ray couldn't just open his eyes between takes. You can't fake it," Foxx said.

Hackford worked closely with Charles, who died at 73 of liver disease on June 10, and said that the man who virtually invented soul music approved of the film and of Foxx's portrayal of his extraordinary life.

"Ray Charles was my partner," Hackford told an interviewer. "He was involved every step the way," he said, adding that the singer arranged some of the movie's music.

Accomplished pianist

Before production began, Foxx, an accomplished pianist, met Charles in his Los Angeles recording studios, where he jammed with the sometimes prickly musical legend, finally winning his approbation.

"He has a thorny side," Hackford recalled. "It's a bit like being thrown in a thorn bush. But ultimately, Jamie survived." The result has put Foxx in an early poll position for a best actor Oscar nomination when the nods are unveiled on Jan. 25 ahead of the 77th Annual Academy Awards ceremony that will be held in Hollywood on Feb. 27.

But, his competition is stiff, pundits warned.

Historical epic

Colin Farrell is also the subject of Oscar buzz, or intense industry speculation, for his role as Alexander the Great, in Oliver Stone's historical epic, "Alexander."

"Titanic" star Leonardo DiCaprio is under intense scrutiny for his role in "The Aviator," a biopic about the life of eccentric US billionaire industrialist, pilot and movie mogul Howard Hughes.

The movie, directed by Martin Scorsese, is also widely tipped as a possible contender for best picture and best director.

Jude Law is a hot contender for best actor for his role in Mike Nichol's new film, "Closer," the story of four people's loves and betrayals (which also stars Julia Roberts, Natalie Portman and Clive Owen). The film is also seen as a best picture contender.

Also expected to vie for best actor are Liam Neeson for "Kinsey," in which he plays sex expert Alfred Kinsey, Kevin Bacon for his role as a pedophile battling his urges in "The Woodsman," and Javier Bardem for "The Sea Inside," in which he plays a quadriplegic.

In the best actress race, Annette Bening is seen as an early favorite for her role in "Being Julia."

Based on a 1937 W. Somerset Maugham story, the film tells of a selfish, spoiled but gifted British stage star, her fears of aging, and her relationship with her vain manager-husband, played by Jeremy Irons.

Abortion

Bening is expected to battle British actress Imelda Staunton for her role in Mike Leigh's "Vera Drake," about the still-sensitive issue of abortion in the 1950s, a film that is also being talked about as a best picture and best director contender.

A much vaunted possibility for best picture is Michael Moore's polemical political documentary, "Fahrenheit 9/11," which won best film at Cannes, and which O'Neil said has a shot at the ultimate movie award.

" 'Fahrenheit' could be the first documentary ever to be nominated for best picture, which would be revolutionary, especially in this political climate," O'Neil said.

AFP

International Catholic media conference set in Rome

By Nestor U. Torre

CHIARA LUBICH. Founder of the Focolare Movement.

A STRONG Philippine delegation is participating in the 2004 International Media Conference early next month at Castel Gandolfo in Rome, Italy.

Organized by NetOne of the Focolare Movement, the Catholic media conference has Dialogue for its main theme, and asks the question: "How can the communicator have a positive effect on society?"

Because of its international character, the conference will address how different cultures understand communication as enriched by related experiences. It seeks to firm up strategies for dialogue to bring about a radical transformation in the field of information.

Focus

Different sections focus on journalism, publishing houses and communication science, and cinema and television. In addition to round table discussions, participants in the third group will visit the famous Italian film studio, Cinecitta, and analyze landmark films.

It is hoped that the Catholic media conference will invigorate the church's use of media in its spiritual mission of evangelization.

In the view of some, the media are the modern world's version of the traditional pulpit from which the Church's teachings have long been disseminated to its many millions of members.

In some instances, however, the Church's understanding and use of media leaves something to be desired. There is in fact a fear that the use of media may dilute or compromise the teachings being disseminated through it.

Dynamic use

But, veteran media people know that this need not be the case. So we trust that, after the conference, a more informed and dynamic use of media for worldwide evangelization will be initiated.

This is of grave importance, because the global population is growing, and thus the media, with their ability to reach millions of listeners or viewers at one time, have become an essential component of spiritual communication in the modern age.

In the Philippines, the communication problem is compounded by the fact that a majority of Catholics don't attend Sunday mass. Since many of them no longer go to church, they can only be reached for spiritual information and evangelization via the media.

To effectively do this in a substantial way, the Church here has to increase and invigorate its media machinery. Attempts in this regard are frustrated early on by the lack of funds and expertise.

Financial deficiency

The initial financial deficiency can be argued away by pointing to the example of Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network, which started with very little money but now services 80 million viewers all over the world.

The lack of expertise could be the bigger problem, but conferences like NetOne and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' growing number of media advocacies can help make up for the slack.

The important thing is to start, and trust in Divine Providence to make the enterprise flourish. And, not a minute too soon, because there are millions of Catholics and possible converts out there eager to be evangelized.

'LADDER 49'

Good intentions don't a good movie make

By Noelani Torre

BARRETT AND PHOENIX. Understated but compelling.

IN an interview with Oprah Winfrey, John Travolta explained that his newest movie, "Ladder 49," looked "at the bigger picture." The film, he said earnestly, is not meant to showcase its stars or its visual effects.

Instead, it's meant to be a tribute to the courage and heroism of firefighters—a group of men who've garnered a lot of attention and admiration ever since 9/11.

Indeed, "Ladder 49"—which tells the story of Jack (Joaquin Phoenix) and his fellow firefighters in a Baltimore fire station—does succeed in honoring the bravery and sacrifices made by the people in this particularly dangerous profession.

Sentimentality

However, though the filmmakers' good intentions may be laudable, they also burden the movie with enough tedious sentimentality to keep one in a permanently cringing state.

There's a well-known saying concerning good intentions, and the road to hell that is applicable here, though we wouldn't call watching this movie "hell." It does have its good points, after all, foremost among them being the visuals and the acting.

There are opportunities for displaying pyrotechnic theatrics with a subject matter like this, and the film's creators have gone all the way.

They give us heart-stopping, infernal scenes of fire gone out of control, dramatic explosions, falling walls of flame, and so on.

This takes care of the audience's adrenaline fix needs, and it accentuates the courage of firefighters who battle with the flames. As Travolta's character puts it, firefighters "go into a burning building while everybody else is running out."

Travolta pays the fire station captain, a role that allows him to be tough yet capable of showing emotion. He plays the father/ older brother/ mentor type effectively and with ease, and this is his most noteworthy performance in quite some time.

Difficult roles

Phoenix, who has long proven his skill at acting in earlier, more difficult roles, gives an understated but compelling performance. His subtlety and depth helped greatly in counteracting the heavy-handed schmaltz of the rest of the film (which was in no way alleviated by a soundtrack practically dripping with pathos).

In truth, we were surprised to see Phoenix in a movie like this, but we hope its popularity will have a positive influence on his own.

Real find

"Ladder 49's" real find in the acting department, however, would be fresh-faced Australian Jacinda Barrett, who plays Jack's wife, Linda. A firefighter's daughter in real life, Barrett made use of her own background to give truth to her enthralling performance.

The role of a woman with a husband constantly exposed to danger allowed Barrett to show off her acting talent. She shed a few tears here and there, but she never went hysterical on us—she kept the drama believable, but at a minimum.

As a tribute to the people in the firefighting profession, "Ladder 49" succeeds, but it fails as cinematic art. Good intentions alone do not a good movie make.

Bumper crop of theater stalwarts

By Behn Cervantes

SANTOS. Initially appreciated for imitating Tessie Tomas.

SINCE its reorganization in 1973, the UP Repertory Company had been actively pursuing its aim to produce relevant nationalist theater during the difficult Martial Law years.

As the acting troupe grew, so did its ambitious productions, which necessitated the recruitment of talented new members. The group recruited in 1978 was a bumper crop.

The enthusiastic troupe got so busy that natural leaders cropped up from it ranks. Mike Lopez of the technical committee was a charismatic leader who interested many students in lighting design and set construction. He is now the technical director of the UP Theater.

Responsibility

In the costume department, Eric Pineda, a focused and genial fellow, took responsibility for costumes worn in historical as well as proletarian plays. He relished doing research for period costumes needed in "Kaaway," a Tagalog translation of a Russian play set during its peasant revolution.

Interestingly, a fine young actress, Tess Dumpit, played the heiress with a revolutionary streak. Since the Maxim Gorky play ended with the cast singing the "Internationale," her general-father was not too pleased.

Tess continued to act for other theater companies. Eric continued to design for plays, then moved on to design costumes for Alma Moreno's "Lovely Ness." He is now a respected fashion designer.

Impeccable

Eric's chums included mimic Jon Santos, then already much appreciated for imitating Tessie Tomas. Giving him stiff competition was Johnny Francisco, whose comic timing and wit were impeccable. Johnny pursued a career in architecture—one of those who got away!

In the writers' pool were Roldeo Endrinal and Enrico Santos. The pool became very active and creative because the duo spurred them to be productive. The two joined Jon and Eric when they tried their luck on television. The two are now executives of a major television station.

The gregarious chair was Nanette Logarta, who finished law and now works for a multinational company in Singapore. Her chum was Rory Quintos, now a successful film director. Crysta Rara now heads the journalism department of the UP Institute of Mass Communication.

Looking back, Batch 1978 was quite a bumper crop, indeed!

ANNA Fegi (third from left) with Toti Fuentes (second from right), talent manager Bibsy Carballo (right) and friends.

Fegi ends year with a bang

ANNA Fegi, back from a five-city US tour, resumes her hectic schedule by gracing an upcoming Singapore event this month and the Manila Peninsula Grand Christmas concert in December.

It has been a busy last quarter for the singer, whose first visit to the US West Coast as a professional singer took her on a month-long tour.

A week after arriving in Manila, Anna will fly to Singapore to be the star attraction in the Sincere Watches Golden Jubilee Charity Gala at the Ritz Carlton Ballroom on Nov. 9.

She will be the featured singer at the Manila Peninsula-Rustan's Christmas concert on Dec. 18, where she will perform with the world-famous Tiples de Sto. Domingo Children's Choir and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) at the Pen lobby.

For inquiries call Bibsy Carballo at 721-0801 or 0917 899-1835.

Leo Martinez . . .

From page A2-1

before they can be granted a permit. "We will act as facilitator *dahil kadalasang nangyayari*, TY *na nga silang nakakapag*-shoot, *pero* negative things *pa ang ipinapakita nila*," Leo says.

Pet project

Another pet project is his "Pride Campaign" geared to awaken our sense of nationalism, and to remind us of what is good about the country. "Let's change the ugly picture the world has of the Philippines. I'm seeking the assistance of artist-politicians in the Senate. We have to revive pride in our rich heritage," Leo quips.

Another goal is to develop a film festival for students, where entries are based on Filipino literature.

"It won't be a *takilya*-inspired filmfest. I want it for the month of August, in time for the observance of the Linggo ng Wika."

Despite his busy schedule, Leo continues to appear on "Idol Ko Si Kap" on GMA-7.

'Bowling for Columbine' traces roots of USA's culture of fear

By Noelani Torre

AT the 2002 Cannes Film Festival, the jury had to come up with a new award—the 55th Anniversary Prize—so that Michael Moore's documentary, "Bowling for Columbine," could be honored.

In that same year's Academy Awards, they didn't have that problem—they awarded the film the best documentary feature prize—and booed its filmmaker when he got too political in his acceptance speech.

These—cheers and jeers—have always been people's reactions to Moore, for though he makes excellent points, he also tends to be biased and manipulative. Unlike other documentary filmmakers, he doesn't stay behind the camera. Moore involves himself in the subject matter and in the film's rhetoric.

Urgency

There's nothing wrong with this, and you can't say that it isn't effective. It imbues "Bowling for Columbine" with an urgency that no supposedly objective point of view can equal.

Moore, however, turns the camera on himself too often for comfort and sometimes, it robs his arguments of their impact. This is something he's noted as well, since he's made himself less visible in his most recent film, "Fahrenheit 9/11."

This latest documentary, which is more or less a harangue against George W. Bush and the war on Iraq, had proven to be so controversially popular in the US that our commercial cinemas opted to screen it a couple of weeks ago. And though they didn't screen "Bowling for Columbine" two years ago, those who haven't seen it can still do so via AXN (check your TV guides for showtimes).

If you're surprised that a channel dedicated to action is playing host to a documentary, don't be. "Bowling" is no dull facts and figures narration, and it deals with something not at all unusual in the AXN vocabulary—guns.

Tragedy

This film deals with American society's culture of violence and a gun culture that has taken its toll where it hurts a society the most. Who's to blame, asks Moore, when children pick up guns and start killing other children?

Columbine, in case you've forgotten, is the town where this tragedy struck when two high schoolers armed themselves with high-powered semi-automatics, and killed 13 people (12 students and one teacher).

The film goes in all sorts of directions in an effort to make sense of this, as well as of Americans' obsession with guns in general. It doesn't do much for coherence, but Moore makes up for it in incisiveness and bleakly humorous satire. There's nothing more absurd, for one, than Oklahoma bomber Terry Nichols' brother, John, who sleeps with a loaded gun under his pillow, saying (very seriously): "There's a lot of wackos out there." It's almost as absurd as the bank that gives away a free gun when you open an account with them. "Don't you think," Moore asks, "that it's a little dangerous giving away guns in a bank?"

Disturbing

In the end, Moore traces the roots of this gun culture to Americans' culture of fear. In an amusing but disturbing cartoon, we see how fear went hand in hand with violence in their history from the time of the pilgrims (when they killed the natives) to the period after the Civil War (when they lynched freed slaves) and up to the present (where they've moved to the suburbs and stocked up on guns).

It's not a pretty picture, but it is one that is guaranteed to make you think. And for all the film's faults, you cannot deny its relevance nor the import of its message.

MOORE. Cheers and jeers have always been people's reactions to his films.

Gellar tops box-office with 'The Grudge' remake

LOS ANGELES—Sarah Michelle Gellar scared off the competition as her horror flick, "The Grudge," debuted at No. 1 with $39.1 million.

The weekend's other new wide release proved a bomb for Ben Affleck. His holiday comedy, "Surviving Christmas," soundly trashed by critics, opened at No. 7 with a dismal $4.4 million.

Top 8

The top 8 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled by Exhibitor Relations and Nielsen:

1. "The Grudge," Sony, $39,128,715, $39,128,715, one week.
2. "Shark Tale," DreamWorks, $14,308,271, $136,982,460, four weeks.
3. "Shall We Dance?", Miramax, $8,589,988, $24,418,113, two weeks.
4. "Friday Night Lights," Universal, $6,947,460, $47,269,480, three weeks.
5. "Team America: World Police," Paramount, $6,388,442, $22,115,806, two weeks.
6. "Ladder 49," Disney, $5,324,148, $61,365,196, four weeks.
7. "Surviving Christmas," DreamWorks, $4,441,356, $4,441,356, one week.
8. "Taxi," Fox, $4,123,642, $29,729,699, three weeks.

AP

My little miracle

From page A2-7

me to do some washing! Arlina had fortuitously included our names in the list of pilgrims submitted to obtain the necessary permission.

Clincher

That was the clincher: There was no way my husband could say no. God had shown us that this was our time to see and live the events that we had only read in the Bible.

And so, we traveled on. Although we marveled at the pyramids, the Sphinx and the magnificent ruins of Petra in Jordan, no words could describe the spiritual fulfillment and experience of walking in the footsteps of the Lord.

We renewed our baptismal vows in the River Jordan and our wedding vows in Cana, sailed on the Sea of Galilee, and felt God's presence in Bethlehem, the Garden of Gethsemane, and in the long, winding road of Christ's suffering in Golgotha.

Significance

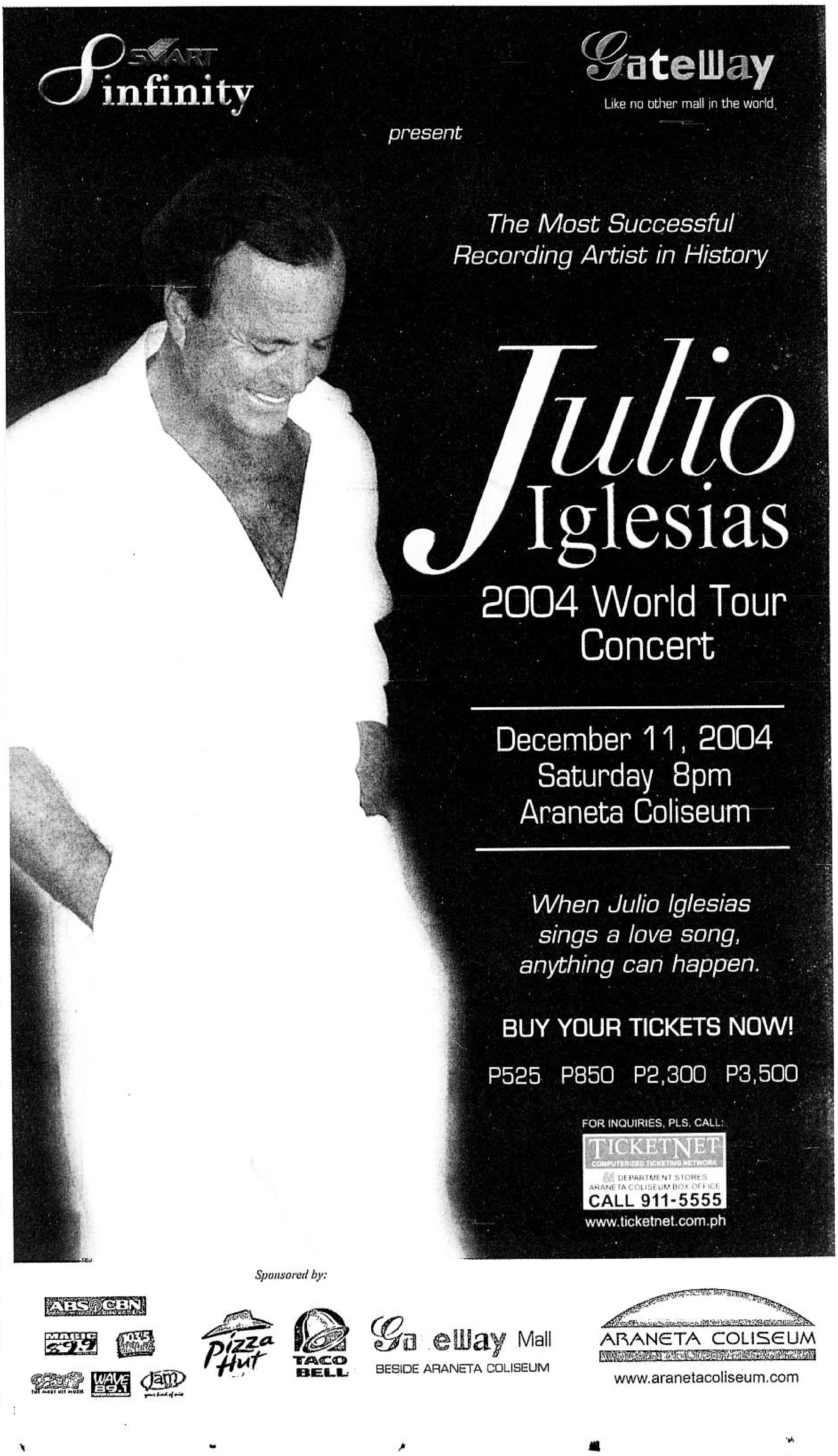
Fr. Gerry Tapiador opened our minds to the historical and technical details of the land, while Fr. Renato Lopez opened our hearts to its significance to our personal lives.

Three young priests, Frs. Chong, Jorge and James, also on their first trip to the Holy Land, shared our joy at seeing, even touching, the relics of the life of our Lord.

Three families in the group found solace in their grief since they had recently experienced pain over the death of a loved one. Two daughters brought their elderly mothers, one 77, the other 83, as a fulfillment of their promise to bring them to the Holy Land in the twilight of their years.

As I flew home, I could only marvel at God's goodness in allowing me to journey along those roads. Indeed, it was my own little miracle.

(Forthcoming pilgrimage to Egypt, Jordan and Holy Land is scheduled from Nov. 9 to Nov. 29. Contact 929-0144 or 929-0155 or email journeys@info.com.ph)



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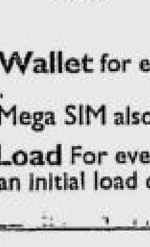

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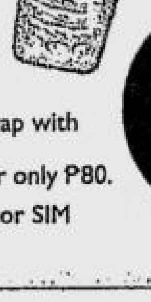

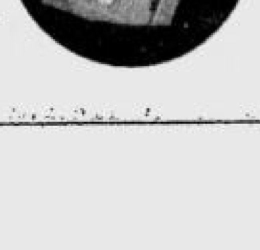

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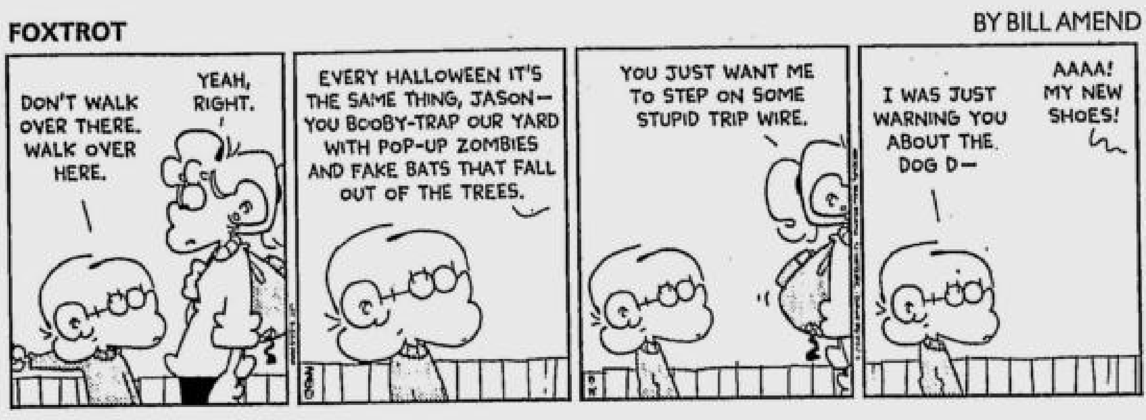
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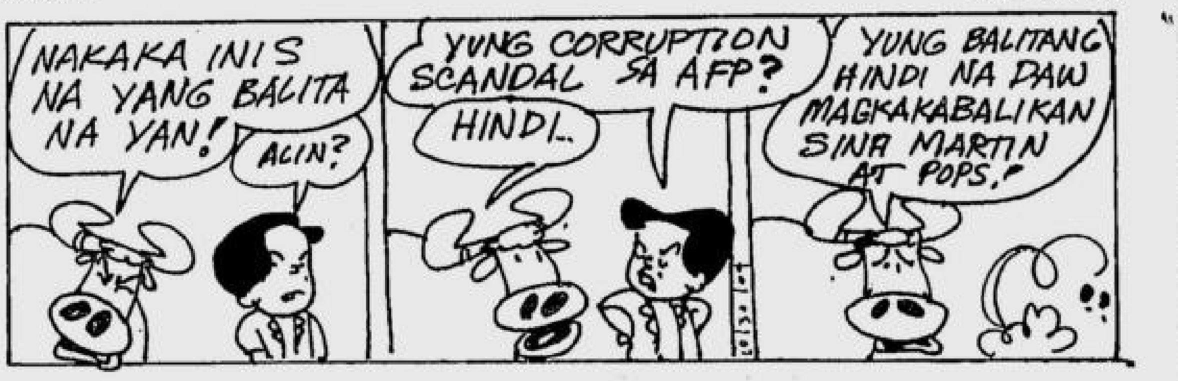
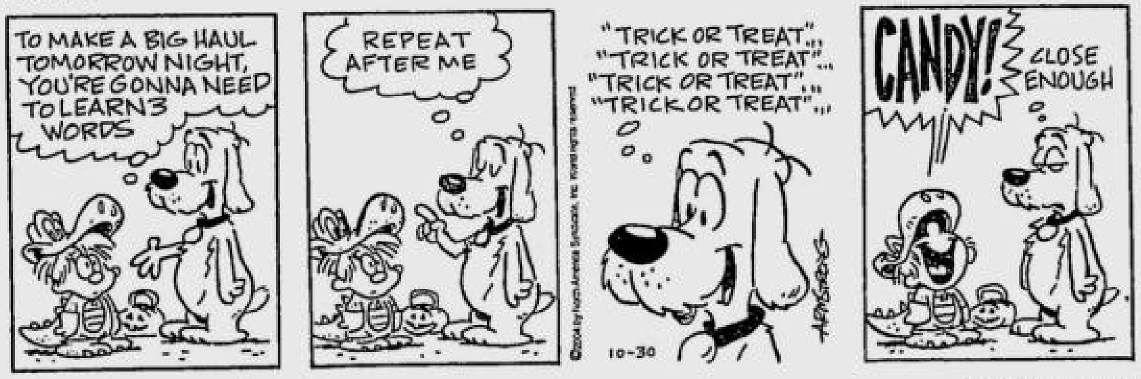
AAAA! MY NEW SHOES!

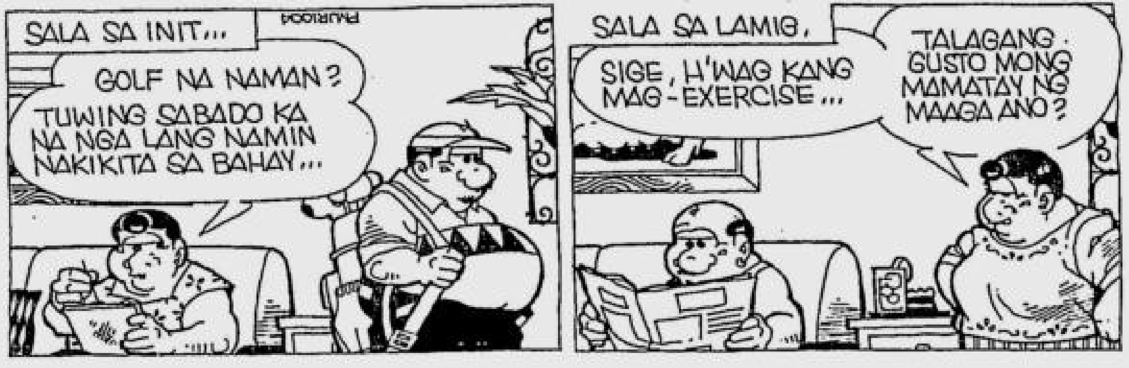
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NAKAKA INIS NA YANG BALITA NA YAN!
ALIN?
YUNG CORRUPTION SCANDAL SA AFP?
HINDI.
YUNG BALITANG HINDI NA DAW MAGKAKABALIKAN SINA MARTIN AT POPS!

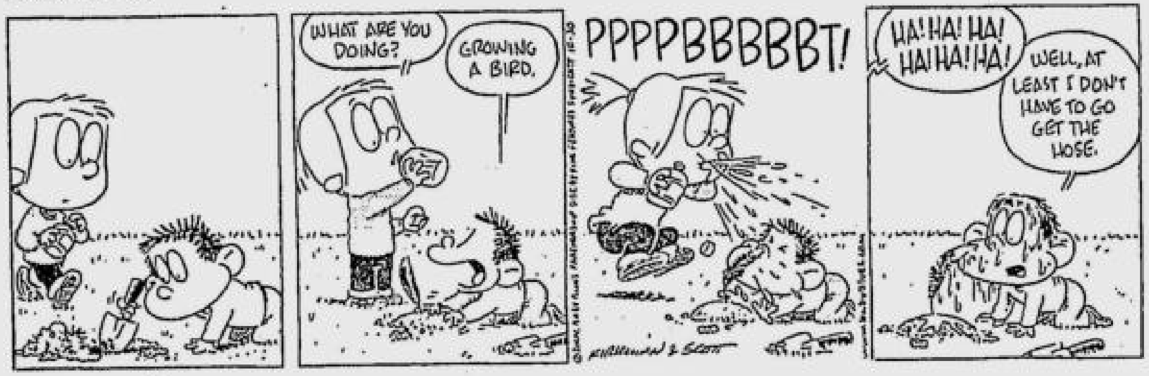
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


TO MAKE A BIG HAUL TOMORROW NIGHT, YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO LEARN 3 WORDS
REPEAT AFTER ME
"TRICK OR TREAT"... "TRICK OR TREAT"... "TRICK OR TREAT"... "TRICK OR TREAT"...
CANDY!
CLOSE ENOUGH
10-30

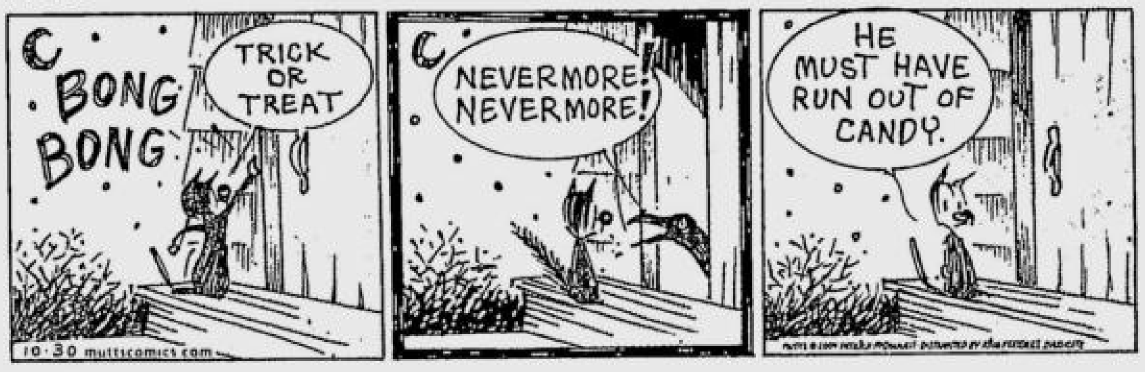
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SALA SA INIT...
GOLF NA NAMAN?
TUWING SABADO KA NA NGA LANG NAMIN NAKIKITA SA BAHAY...
SALA SA LAMIG.
SIGE, H'WAG KANG MAG-EXERCISE...
TALAGANG GUSTO MONG MAMATAY NG MAAGA ANO?

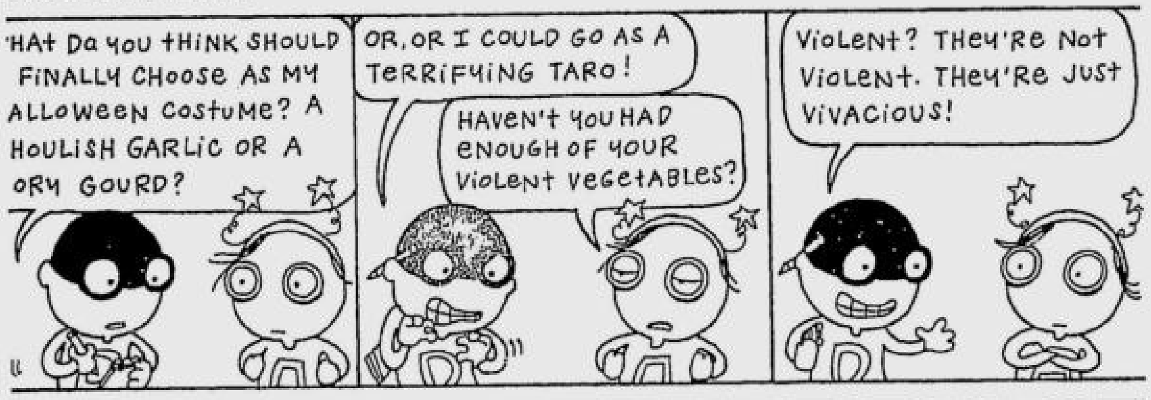
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GROWING A BIRD.
PPPPBBBBBT!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
WELL, AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO GO GET THE HOSE.

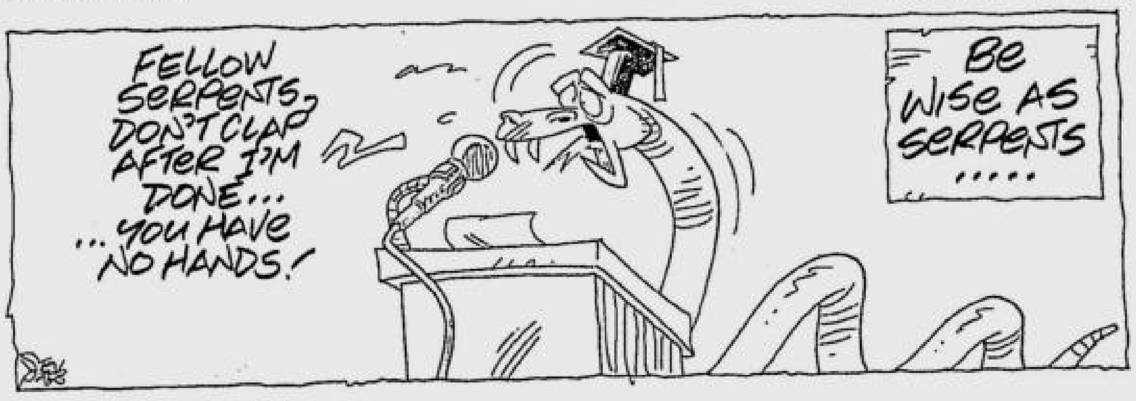
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONG BONG
TRICK OR TREAT
NEVERMORE! NEVERMORE!
HE MUST HAVE RUN OUT OF CANDY.
10·30 muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


'HAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD FINALLY CHOOSE AS MY ALLOWEEN COSTUME? A HOULISH GARLIC OR A ORY GOURD?
OR, OR I COULD GO AS A TERRIFYING TARO!
HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR VIOLENT VEGETABLES?
VIOLENT? THEY'RE NOT VIOLENT. THEY'RE JUST VIVACIOUS!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FELLOW SERPENTS, DON'T CLAP AFTER I'M DONE... ...YOU HAVE NO HANDS!
BE WISE AS SERPENTS .....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you are confident, you easily organize others or direct their efforts. You know what they want. You're multitalented and can do many things. People work for you because you're one of them. You're organized, attentive and responsible. The year ahead holds many new, exciting beginnings. Keep an open, positive mind!
Birthdate of: Henry Winkler, actor/director; Nia Long, actress; Grace Slick, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You will enjoy warm, close, loving friendships. Your relationships will improve as well. Even your dealings with the general public will be fortunate.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your job is going to improve so much this year that you will be stunned. It could go from really horrible to really good. Keep the faith! (Sounds good to me.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You'll seek out beautiful vacations, flirtations, parties, entertaining times, the theater, arts and fun activities with children. You guessed it—time to play!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your real-estate scene has never looked better. Not only can your home and real estate improve this year, but family relations are also warm and loving. This is wonderful.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You find it so much easier to be optimistic and upbeat now. In part, this is because daily contacts are pleasurable to be with. You genuinely enjoy talking to others now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're going to earn more money this year. You're also going to spend more money. Naturally, the two go hand in hand (all the way to the bank).

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's been 12 years since lucky Jupiter was in your sign. Many things will benefit you now, but the net result of it all is simply this: You are happier!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Listen to that inner voice that wants to explore spiritual concerns now. You're looking for a path. You're looking for meaning. If you're looking, you'll find something.

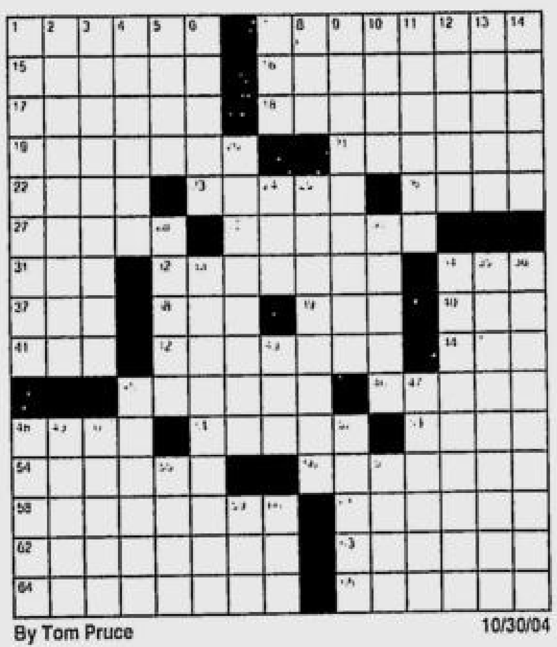
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your popularity reading is off the charts now. Everyone wants to see your face. Get active with groups. Enjoy physical activities with friends. Join a team.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your career is beautifully favored now. That's nice, because this means a lot to you. You enjoy the esteem and prestige that success brings. You want respect.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You need to blow town! You're hungry for adventure. You really want an opportunity to learn more about life, other countries, different cultures and new ways of doing things.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Life is becoming more fortunate for you. Many of you will receive inheritances, gifts, favors and bonuses, as well as help and assistance from others.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
10/30/04

ACROSS
1 Performance prizes
7 Of inferior social status
15 One's sister's son
16 Hard up
17 Of high mountains
18 Striking downward
19 Got a whiff of
21 Militant Greek city-state
22 Dorothy's pup
23 Peppers
26 Regan's father
27 Out of proper order
29 Of words
31 Prepared
32 Certain English schoolboy
34 Little rascal
37 Ferocity
38 Obtained
39 A-Team member
40 Nada
41 Silly billy
42 Futile
44 Stevedores' grp.
45 Duplicity
46 "Bullitt" director Peter
48 Korean apricot
51 Fall flower
53 Fine spray
54 Stringed instrument
56 Optimistic
58 Being jubilant
61 Spoils collector?
62 Single-name comic
63 Sweet-smelling gas
64 More tangled
65 Transferred property

DOWN
1 Bergman's 1956 Oscar winner
2 Greeters
3 Likings
4 Endangered ungulates, for short
5 Concavity
6 Series shutout
7 Mil. honor
8 Afr. nation
9 Rungs, e.g.
10 Arctic Circle dweller
11 Fill with dismay
12 Steeple top
13 "The Flying Dutchman" girl
14 __ Rice Burroughs
20 Loyal fans
24 Actor Cariou
25 Verse line of three feet
28 Fluid transition
30 Wiggly
33 Conductor Arturo
34 Introduced to something new
35 Significant event marker
36 Very drunk
43 Burning
45 More boring
47 "Cocoon" Oscar winner
48 Maintains
49 Cynthia of "Sex and the City"
50 "Semper Fidelis" composer
52 Wandered about
55 Slanted type: abbr.
57 Setting of something
59 Opposite of SSW
60 Eur. country

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	U	M	P	■	A	B	E	S	■	Y	A	L	E
C	A	R	O	L	■	D	U	N	E	■	A	V	I	S
A	M	I	N	O	■	A	L	E	C	■	H	O	M	P
R	R	S	O	V	E	H	B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y
■	■	■	D	E	L	■	■	O	N	T	■	■	■	■
M	C	I	■	R	I	T	A	■	D	E	G	R	E	E
I	O	N	A	■	H	O	L	I	■	A	L	A	N	S
T	H	E	S	O	U	N	D	O	F	M	U	Z	A	K
R	A	R	E	H	■	G	E	N	E	■	T	E	T	E
E	N	T	A	I	L	■	N	E	R	D	■	S	E	R
■	■	■	■	B	U	S	■	■	A	I	M	■	■	■
T	H	E	P	I	N	K	A	L	L	E	Y	C	A	T
Y	U	L	E	■	G	I	L	A	■	S	L	I	M	E
N	E	E	H	■	E	L	M	S	■	E	A	T	E	N
E	S	A	U	■	S	L	A	T	■	L	I	E	N	S

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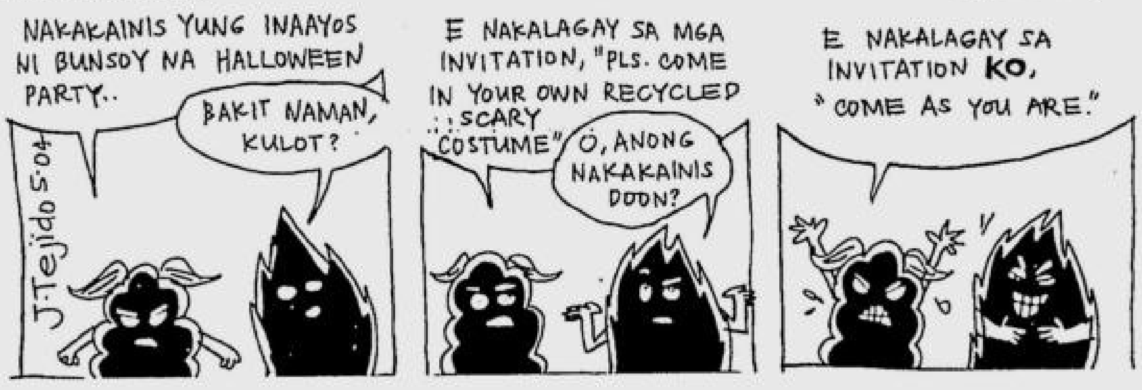
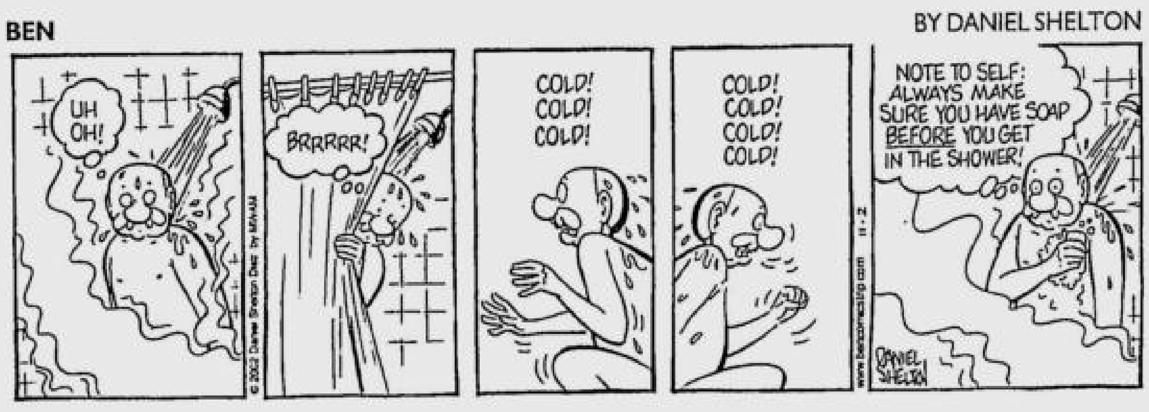
10/30/04

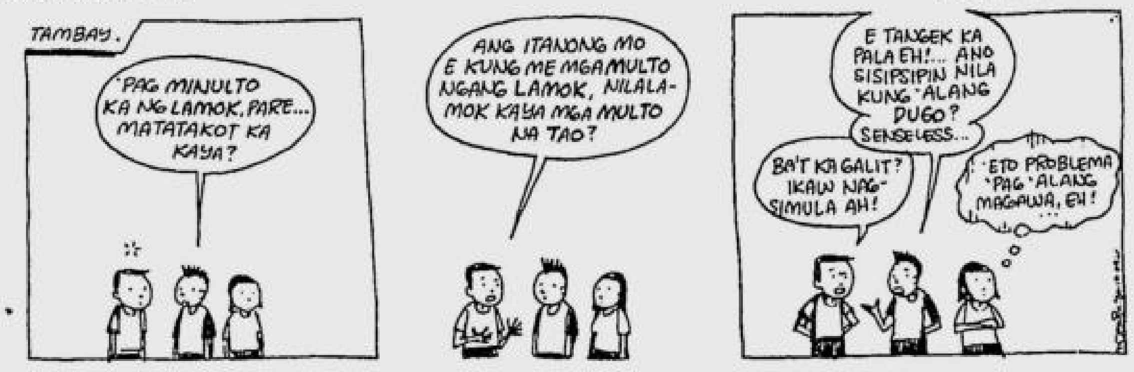
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKAKAINIS YUNG INAAYOS NI BUNSOY NA HALLOWEEN PARTY..
BAKIT NAMAN, KULOT?
J. Tejido 5·04
E NAKALAGAY SA MGA INVITATION, "PLS. COME IN YOUR OWN RECYCLED SCARY COSTUME"
O, ANONG NAKAKAINIS DOON?
E NAKALAGAY SA INVITATION KO, "COME AS YOU ARE."

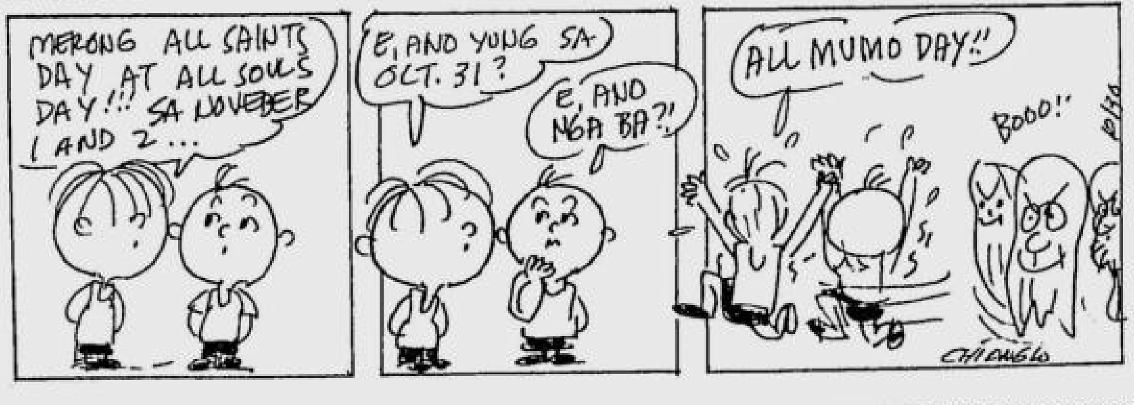
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


UH OH!
BRRRRR!
COLD! COLD! COLD!
COLD! COLD! COLD! COLD!
NOTE TO SELF: ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SOAP BEFORE YOU GET IN THE SHOWER!

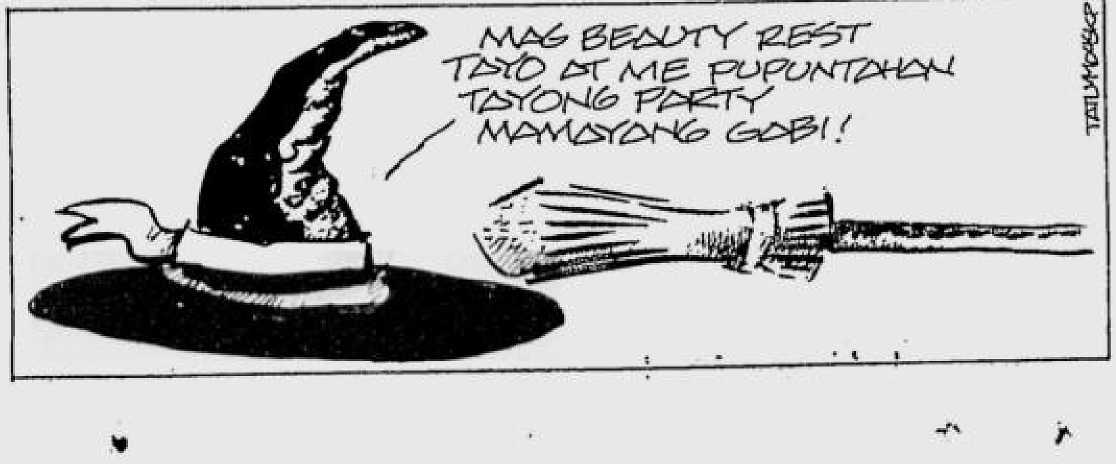
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TAMBAY.
'PAG MINULTO KA NG LAMOK, PARE... MATATAKOT KA KAYA?
ANG ITANONG MO E KUNG ME MGA MULTO NGANG LAMOK, NILALAMOK KAYA MGA MULTO NA TAO?
E TANGEK KA PALA EH!... ANO SISIPSIPIN NILA KUNG 'ALANG DUGO? SENSELESS...
BA'T KA GALIT? IKAW NAG-SIMULA AH!
'ETO PROBLEMA 'PAG 'ALANG MAGAWA, EH!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MERONG ALL SAINTS DAY AT ALL SOULS DAY!!! SA NOVEBER 1 AND 2...
E, ANO YUNG SA OCT. 31?
E, ANO NGA BA?!
ALL MUMO DAY!!
BOOO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAG BEAUTY REST TAYO AT ME PUPUNTAHAN TAYONG PARTY MAMAYANG GABI!
TATUMOSKP

'Chicago' filmmaker helming 'Memoirs of a Geisha' with all-star Asian performers

ZHANG. Plays title role in Rob Marshall's latest movie.

LOS ANGELES—Rob Marshall is shooting a movie version of the best-selling novel, "Memoirs of a Geisha," with an all-star Asian cast that includes Chinese actress Gong Li and Malaysia's Michelle Yeoh.

Marshall, whose musical "Chicago" won the 2003 best picture Oscar, has begun shooting Arthur Golden's Japanese-themed romantic epic in Los Angeles, before shifting production to Japan.

Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi, who starred in the Oscar-winning Taiwanese movie, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and in China's "Hero," plays the title role of Sayuri Nitta, a young woman in pre-war Japan who enters a geisha house in Kyoto and goes on to achieve fame in her work.

International fame

Chinese beauty Gong Li, who rose to international fame in "Raise the Red Lantern," also has a role in the movie, along with James Bond girl and "Crouching Tiger" star Yeoh.

The movie, produced by Steven Spielberg, Lucy Fisher and Douglas Wick, marks Gong Li's first leading role in a major Hollywood film. She play's Sayuri's wicked rival.

Yeoh's film credits include the 1997 Bond film, "Tomorrow Never Dies," in which she played a Chinese spy opposite Pierce Brosnan as the British superspy.

Japanese actor Ken Watanabe, who was nominated for an Oscar for best supporting actor in 2003's "The Last Samurai," also has a leading role in the ensemble, as the powerful man who wins Sayuri's heart. *AFP*

Jackie Chan snubs son's pop career

HONG KONG—Jackie Chan usually deals body blows to movie villains. But now, he has punched a hole in his son's pop career with an attack on Jaycee Chan's debut album.

Premiere

Jackie, in Beijing for the premiere of the Hong Kong cop drama, "New Police Story," admitted he didn't like "Running While Singing," the first single lifted from young Jaycee's self-titled and self-penned debut album.

"I don't like the song. Can you guys tell him that?," newspaper Apple Daily quoted the star telling reporters.

"After hearing the song, I thought I should just leave him to mind his own business," Jackie said.

Jaycee, 21, who bears a striking resemblance to his father, and inherited his trademark big nose, was said to have enjoyed a smooth ride into show biz, thanks to the patronage of the world's most famous Chinese superstar.

Nonetheless, the Mandarin-language album of autobiographical folk and R & B tracks is getting short shrift from Jackie.

Album

"He hasn't even given me the album. We don't have time to see each other," a terse Jackie added.

Jaycee was born in 1983, just two days after Jackie married Taiwan actress Joan Lin.

He spent most of his young life in Los Angeles with his mother after his parents split and Jackie established himself as a major action star. *AFP*

JAYCEE'S (left) first single gets a "thumbs down" from dad.

JOURNEYS of Faith pilgrims at Mt. Nebo in Jordan where tradition says Moses was shown the Promised Land. First row, (from left) Belen Pacannuayan, Golly Mirasol, Fr. Rene Lopez and Bert Galano. Second row, (from left) Steve Pacannuayan, Lily Balinghasay, Peng Balinghasay, Minda Ferrer, Abdul Kadir (our guide), Vicky Mallari, Arlina Onglao, Flor Bacar and Boss Gutierrez.

My little miracle

By Lily A. Balinghasay

JUST as Moses stood on Mt. Nebo while looking at the Promised Land, knowing he could never step on its soil, so too I was to stop on Mt. Nebo's peak on the last leg of our Egypt/ Jordan trip to look at the fabled land that God had promised to His Chosen People.

I had always dreamed of seeing the places I had read in the Sacred Scriptures, but the renewed turmoil in Bethlehem three years ago had overtaken my resolve.

Enthusiasm

Everytime I would broach the idea, friends and relatives would douse my enthusiasm with grim warnings of death by bombing or gunfire.

This time, my husband agreed to join a pilgrimage to Egypt and Jordan, stressing that we would return to Manila after one week.

. We would not join the rest of the group when they continued their trip to the Holy Land. He said that he had important business meetings in Manila and, knowing that he still was not convinced about a safe trip to Jerusalem, I reluctantly agreed.

But, God has other plans. Arlina Onglao of Journeys of Faith and the other pilgrims of our 12-member group, while waiting at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for our flight to Dubai, began to bombard my husband with pleas to join them in crossing Jerusalem. For every problem that was raised by my husband, they had a ready answer.

Safety

Arlina countered my husband's fear for our safety by saying that she had waited three long years before returning to the Holy Land because her local Palestinian friend, Frank (who would serve as our tour guide) had given the go-signal only last November.

She had sent her daughter, Rona, to join a film crew in Israel at the time, and she had returned with a positive assessment of the situation.

We did not bring enough medicines for another week's trip. No problem, Arlina would ask Rona to get them from our home and send it with the second group of pilgrims, who were joining us in Amman.

We did not have enough clothes—one lady generously offered some laundry detergent for

MY LITTLE/ A2-3

MILIAN. Shot her first commercial at age nine. AP

Christina Milian wants a Grammy and an Oscar

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin—Pop singers used to be pop singers, and actors used to be actors. Now that the two have become almost interchangeable, Christina Milian can go ahead and chase a Grammy and an Oscar at the same time.

The New Jersey-born Cuban-American did her first commercial, for Wendy's, at age nine. Her self-titled debut album was released only abroad in 2002, but the single, "AM to PM," did well on Billboard's Hot 100.

Latest CD

Now Milian is 22 and on tour, opening for Usher, promoting her latest CD, "It's About Time," released earlier this summer. The first single, "Dip It Low," is a top five Billboard hit.

She also has two movies set for release: "Man of the House," with Tommy Lee Jones, and "Be Cool," with John Travolta and Uma Thurman.

The self-professed lover of shoes and SUVs said she's wanted to sing and act since she was a child, watching Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston and the "Wizard of Oz." Q and A:

AP: You've been around for a long time, but "Dip It Low" is your biggest hit. Why do you think it's taken a while for you to take off?

Milian: I just think it takes time. My first album was about to come out in America, but a lot of things were key factors in the reason it didn't come out. Sept. 11 didn't help. I had my record, "AM to PM," which was blowing up, but 9/11 happened. Being overseas and touring was a great rehearsal for me.

You've been compared to Beyoncé in appearance and voice. How do you feel about that?

It's a compliment. She's an amazing artist. The hair is one key factor why I'm compared to her.

Bored

I think she is a lovely artist, very talented. But, the only reason I changed my hair color is because I was getting bored of the same old look, and I wanted to do something different.

Is your acting career going to be taking a back seat now that your music career is taking off?

Oh no. I think I'm always going to be doing both. That's what I've always wanted to do and I started out acting. Then, when I moved into music, I focused only on my music, so it was about time that movies started coming back into my life.

It was the right time to say, 'OK, I want to get back into movies now. I can do both at the same time and balance it out.' Once these movies come out, it's going to be an even bigger situation I will have to deal with.

No preference

Do you prefer singing or acting?

I don't have a preference over one or the other. I do love, however, performing live onstage above all else. It's my favorite.

Ten years from now, do you still hope to be doing both?

I'll slow down on the music. It will probably be more of my films because, how many changes can I possibly make? But, who knows? Look at Madonna and Janet Jackson . . .

How do you feel about being a role model to young girls?

I feel good about it because you know I'm not a shy person. I just tell the girls, though, to be their own person. At the end of the day, you have to be your own person and learn to love yourself. *AP*

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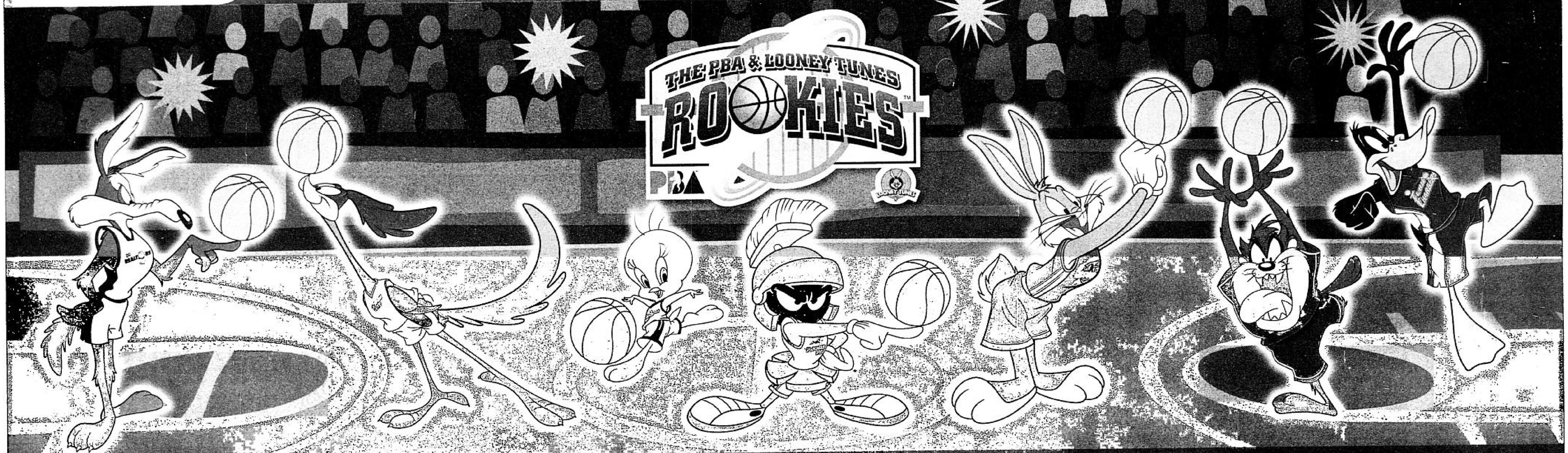
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NAME: "High-flyin" Tweety
TEAM: Alaska Aces

NAME: "Out-of-this-world" Marvin the Martian
TEAM: Talk 'N Text Phone Pals

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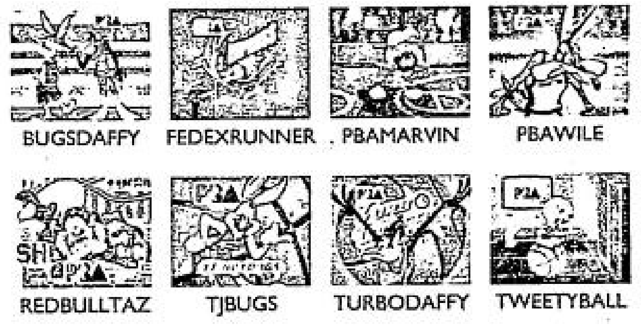

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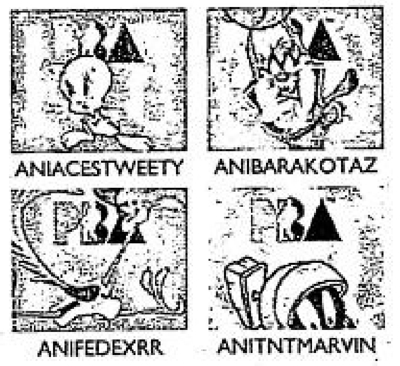

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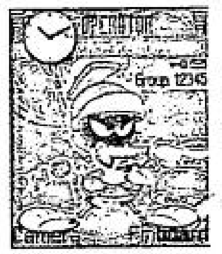

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SATURDAY *Special*

Guillen's 'Santa Santita' opens next month

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'VE just viewed the full (three-minute) trailer of Laurice Guillen's new film, "Santa Santita" (written by Gerry Gracio), and our gut feel is that the movie will end up as one of the year's best—if not *the* finest Filipino movie of 2004.

Of course, we'll have to view the completed film when it opens next month to come up with a definitive rave. But, the signs are good that the movie will turn out to be a superlative production.

PANGANIBAN. From sinner to mystic.

For one thing, it's a gritty drama with significant religious intimations. Some years ago, Guillen returned to filmmaking after a hiatus of six years, during which she and husband Johnny Delgado focused on their religious mission.

Comeback

Not coincidentally, Guillen's comeback directorial vehicle was a family and religious drama, "Tanging Yaman," which was both a popular and critical hit.

This proved that, because of her deep personal involvement in spiritual issues, Guillen was one of the few Filipino filmmakers who could do full justice to religious subject matter in the movies.

This was a significant revelation, since the "new" Guillen came back to filmmaking at exactly the right time, because Filipinos now have a great yearning for spiritual enlightenment. That's what "Tanging Yaman" gave them, and that's why they made the movie a big hit.

Our feeling is, the same thing could happen to "Santa Santita," another (and perhaps even more significant) dramatic investigation of modern spirituality, Philippine-style.

Subtitled "A Journey of Faith," the film takes its protagonist, Malen (Angelica Panganiban) from sinner to mystic. Through her, viewers whose hearts and souls are similarly conflicted may be able to find their own illumination and salvation.

Tormentor

Another focal character with an even darker penumbra to him is Mike (Jericho Rosales), Malen's psychic antagonist and tormentor.

Then, there's the controversial priest (Johnny Delgado), whose presence in the film brings to the fore the crisis of faith that even members of the clergy are occasionally experiencing in these spiritually complex and confounding times.

With these conflicted characters setting the pace, "Santa Santita" should be quite a dramatically and thematically eventful cinematic journey. And it's even more ironic that its locus, Quiapo, has a church surrounded by decidedly irreligious activities and characters.

Quite pointedly, it's a microcosm of the contradictory world that many of us inhabit. So, the illumination arrived at by the people in Guillen's film could also help us make sense of our own sometimes contradictory lives.

From its full trailer, we sense that "Santa Santita" could turn out to be an even more serious and rigorous film than "Tanging Yaman."

All the more reason then for viewers who yearn for greater spiritual engagement and illumination via the cinema to give Guillen's movie their enthusiastic patronage and undivided attention when it opens next month.

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NOW SHOWING

Second chance at love and world domination

By Rito P. Asilo

"Before Sunset"
D: Richard Linklater
S: Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy

IT took Richard Linklater a mere 15 days to finish filming the sequel to his 1995 romantic charmer, "Before Sunrise." Nine years after Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Celine (Julie Delpy) shared existential and romantic musings on a train ride from Budapest to Vienna, the star-crossed couple meets again in Paris.

Now a successful novelist, Jesse, a bit wrinkled, married and with a four-year-old son, is in the French capital for the last leg of his promotional book tour.

He ends up signing autographs at Celine's favorite bookshop and, as he wraps up pleasantries with admirers, he catches the soulful gaze of the beautiful, smiling mademoiselle whose face has consistently hounded his thoughts and dreams.

Is it a simple case of chance? —Or, has fate stepped in to seal their destinies?

Linklater's thoughtful, achingly beautiful, intelligent film is sweet and cerebral—the pair shares well-written, immensely engaging discussions about the current social order: politics, communism, violence, environment, even gun control.

More than anything, though, "Before Sunset" is an irresistible "dissertation" on love, life and commitment, with quotable lines like "There's got to be something more to love than commitment"; "Happiness is in the doing, not in the getting what you want"; "The world may be evolving the way a person evolves," etc.

DELPY AND HAWKE. Touching performances.

But, what seethes through their leisurely conversation is the palpable feeling of loss, and the gnawing realization that they missed out on something precious when they didn't exchange contact details when they parted in Vienna nine years earlier.

The mush doesn't come from emotional plot manipulations common among romcoms, but naturally filters through the characters' loneliness and resignation.

There are touching performances from Hawke and Delpy, who sings a haunting chanson before the film's conclusion.

If you're someone like Celine, who believes that "memory is a beautiful thing if you don't have to deal with the past," you may just learn from this movie that confronting with the past may just be the key to finding the happiness that you've always yearned for—before your sun sets.

"SuperBabies: Baby Geniuses 2"
D: Bob Clark
S: Jon Voight, Scott Baio

How can a witless 1999 comedy spawn a follow-up?

Well, stranger things have happened. In this week's other sequel, a media mogul, Bill Biscane (a painfully over-the-top Jon Voight), attempts to use decoded baby talk in his quest for world domination, by sending subliminal messages that would rob people of their free will—that is, *if* he cracks the code of baby gibberish!

But, if superbaby Kahuna had successfully stopped him in Berlin in 1962, how can Biscane hope to thwart his undergrown nemesis now that the latter has recruited crime-fighting toddlers into his fold, and turned them into Bouncing Boy, Baby Courageous, Brain Boy and Cupid Girl?

As Kahuna eloquently advised: "Never send a man to do a baby's job!" Duh.

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SM City Iloilo Cinema 3
SM City Pampanga Cinema 5
SM City Baguio Cinema 2
SM City Lucena Cinema 2

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
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SM City Cebu Cinema 3
SM City Lucena Cinema 1
SM City Iloilo Cinema 1
SM City Cagayan Cinema 3

RESIDENT EVIL
MTRCB Rating:R13
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SM City Cagayan Cinema 1
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SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4
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OPEN WATER
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SM City Iloilo Cinema 8
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SM City Lucena Cinema 4

THE PUNISHER
MTRCB Rating: PG 13
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SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
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6 RESIDENT EVIL 2

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Tintin shares wedding tips in video for brides

By Remy M. Umerez

DEC. 8 marks the first anniversary of the marriage of Christine Bersola and Julius Babao. According to Tintin, who is heavy with her first child, it took them more than a year to prepare for the special event.

In control

"I don't believe in rushing things. I knew exactly what I wanted—and I was in control! Julius referred to me as The Mad Bride. Minutes before I walked down the aisle, I was still on the phone coordinating with caterers to make sure that the *barangay tanods* and the police, who were helping us with security, had eaten lunch, *dahil ayoko silang malipasan ng gutom*," she recalls.

Informative

Christine is elated to be involved in Viva's video project on planning a dream wedding. She hosts the feature, which she describes as "a trip down memory lane," because it is based on her own experience as a bride. Any bride-to-be, she says, will find the video informative and timeless.

"Not everybody can afford to hire wedding planners. With all the resource persons we feature on the show, this VCD is a complete guide. It's a great pre-wedding gift," she beams.

Christine refused to divulge how much her wedding cost. But, she shared interesting details: For instance, close chum Sharon Cuneta took take of the wedding invitations; Boy Abunda bought the cake; a sponsor shouldered plane tickets for their honeymoon, etc.

Flowers

And, why spend half a million pesos on imported flowers if you can use homegrown ones? The bottom line: Stick to your budget!

Another piece of advice she offers: "Don't wear something just because it happens to be the trend. Wear something comfortable. Don't allow anybody to dictate to you—not your parents or in-laws. Remember, this is *your* wedding!"

Most important

"The most important thing is, pray that you'll marry your soulmate. A wedding is a one-time event, but marriage is a lifetime!"

The glow on Christine's face shows that motherhood becomes her. Their baby girl is due in February next year, and she'll be named Antonia Sophia.

She recently completed "Bryan Learns His Lesson," the first in a series of children's books, with Julius as illustrator, lovingly written as a gift for their first baby.

THE BABAOS. It took them more than a year to prepare for the special event.

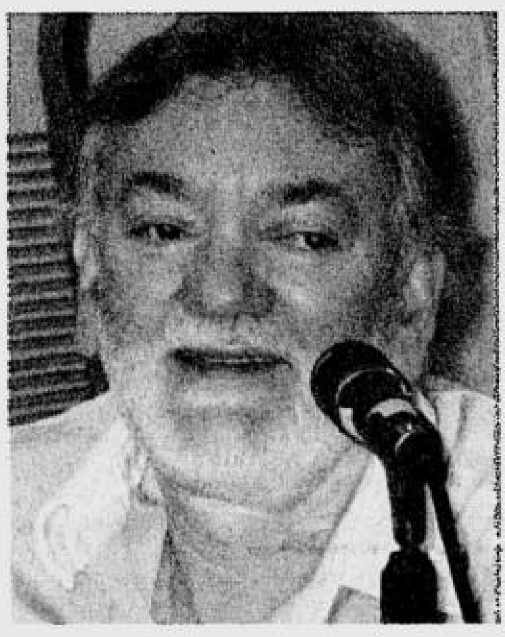
UP screenwriting workshop puts emphasis on individual voices

By Rica Arevalo

I CALL myself a "professional" workshopper. Attending workshops makes me productive. It is a venue to "realize" my short films or screenplays.

When the Mowelfund Film Institute invited me to represent them in the Cilect-UP Film Institute Screenwriting Workshop, I grabbed the chance. I am in good company: My classmates include Doy del Mundo, Ditsi Carolino and Raymond Lee.

Del Mundo shares, "I have never attended workshops other than my tutorials with NUT in college. The irony is, I am also in the academe, so I want to discover a new approach to teaching writing."



McGILL. Very much against the Hollywood model.

Storytelling

What has he learned from Christopher McGill (principal lecturer of the Victorian College of the Arts)? He smiles, "The emphasis is on storytelling and not scriptwriting. We explore ways to tell stories: Look inside yourself, and find these stories. We use memories to tell them.

Reni Roxas Singer, a children's book publisher, says, "This is my first screenwriting workshop, and I'm learning so much from the other participants. Our story-sharing sessions enrich me."

"Milan" co-writer Raymond Lee comments, "I teach at UP. I want to be re-energized. I get tired of writing if I don't have creative control over the final draft. This is a wake-up call for me—to connect with my inner self and find ways to let it go. I should not repress my writing."

Reluctant

Ditsi Carolino (who has an upcoming documentary, "Bunso") has always been a reluctant writer. "I honestly thought I couldn't write. But, I found Mr. McGill's approach nurturing and empowering. I prefer a teacher who encourages rather than one who terrorizes. Being gentle works all the time."

McGill has nice words for his students: "They are passionate, imaginative and committed." The goal of the workshop is to emphasize the idea of a personal story—and it worked brilliantly for each of us! The one-liner trigger exercise opened numerous floodgates. Our 50-word saga assignment helped uncover amazing memories.

"We have to respect an artist's voice. I am very much against the Hollywood model. Stories should come from the individual. A man who dies without his legend, dies in strangeness," adds McGill, whose current work, "The Great Lord Shakespeare," deals with the true identity of William Shakespeare.

PARTICIPANTS at the Cilect-sponsored event with their teacher.

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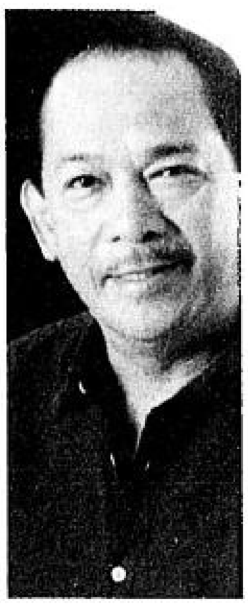
Rico J., Ethel in 'Bottoms Up'

WHAT happens when one of the country's greatest performers teams up with one of the wackiest singing sensations on TV?

Major concert

The answer: Instant chemistry, as Rico J. Puno performs with Ethel Booba in their first major concert, "Bottoms Up," at Le Pavilion.


PUNO. Naughty barbs.

"I always want to give the audience something new," Rico J. shares. "That's why teaming up with Ethel is something I look forward to."

Trademark

After a successful series of concerts in the US, Mr. Muy Simpatico will unleash his vocal prowess once more with his trademark naughty barbs.

Who can forget his classics, like "The Way We Were," "Macho Gwapito" and "Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko"? Rico J. definitely set a trend for other OPM male balladeers.

"Dream come true *sa akin* to work with Rico J," Ethel squeals.

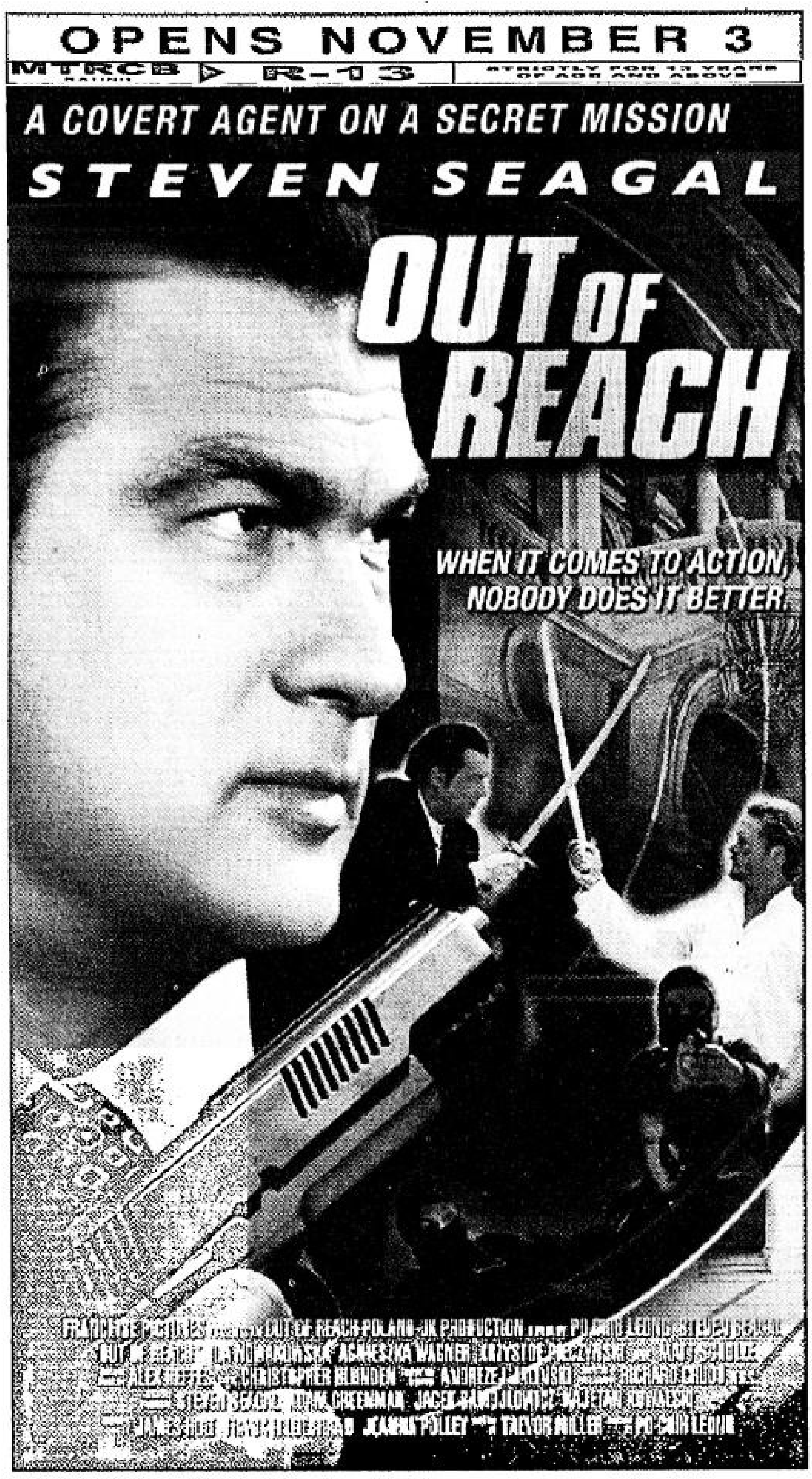
Seductive

"Bottoms Up" promises to be a seductive and spunky show.

Catch Rico J. and Ethel Booba in "Bottoms Up" on Friday, Nov. 19.

"Bottoms Up" is directed by Pat Perez with musical direction by Gerry Matias. Call DL Media Focus at 886-4421 or TicketNet at 911-5555.

BOOBA. Wacky.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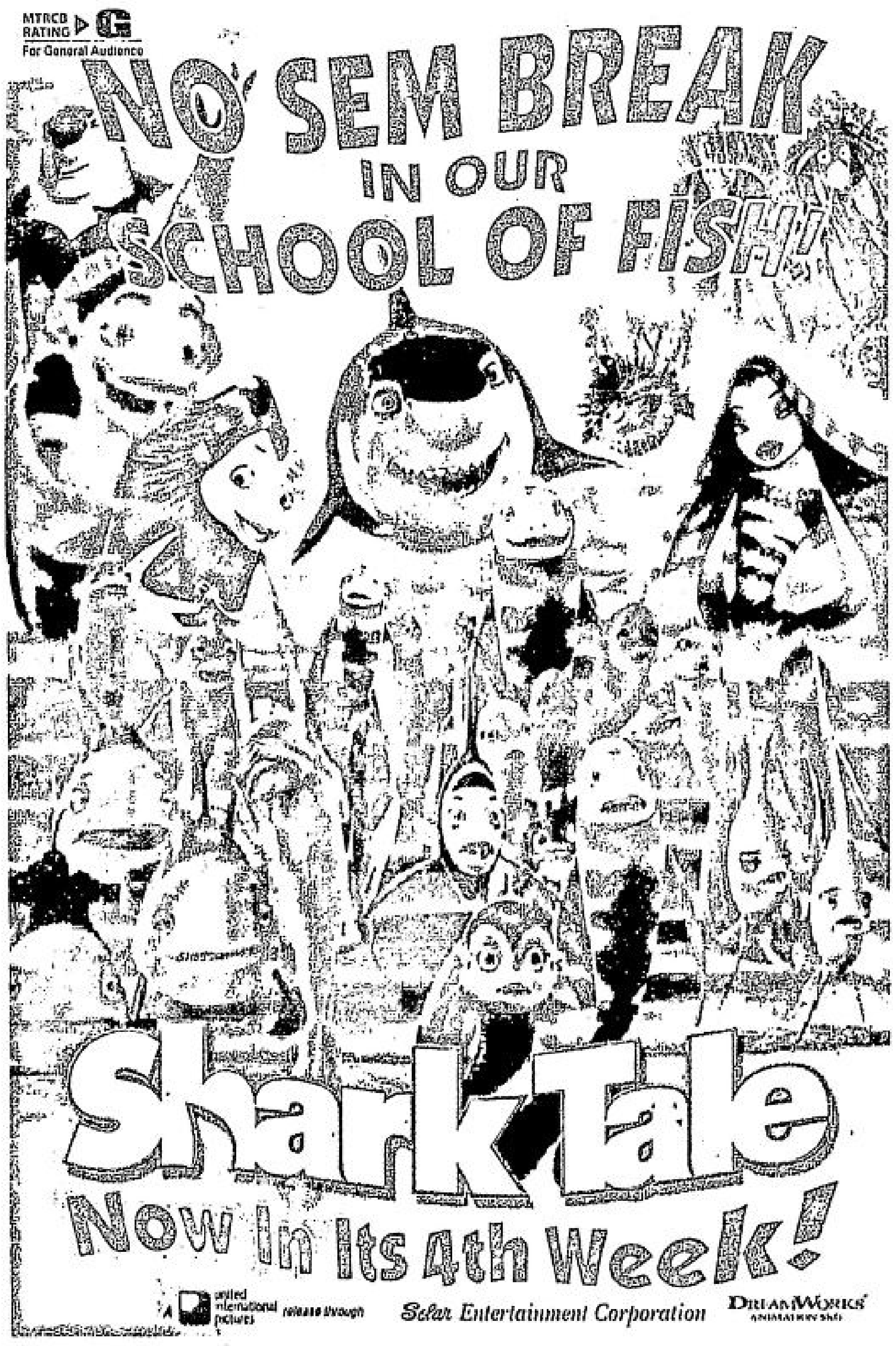
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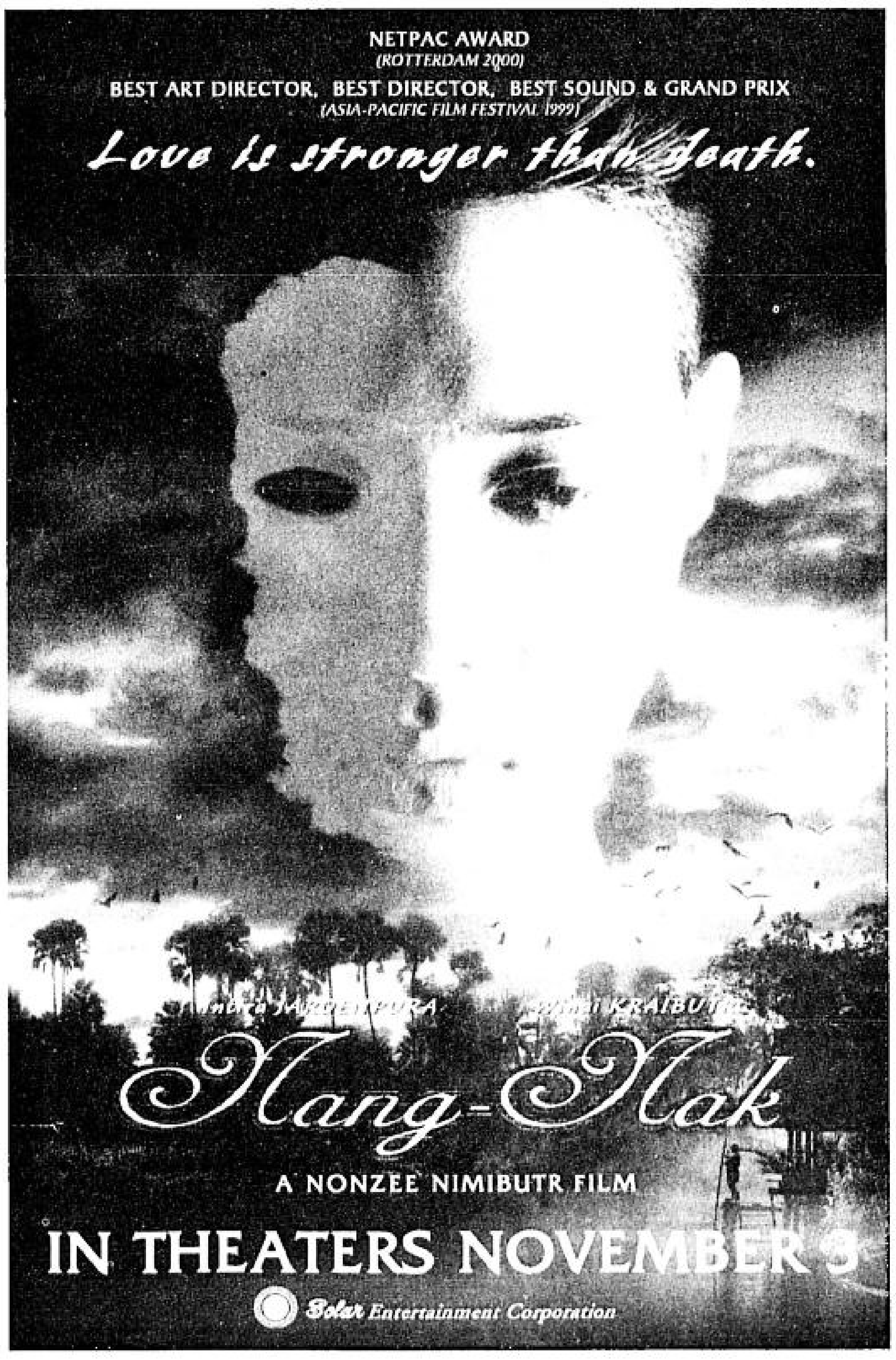
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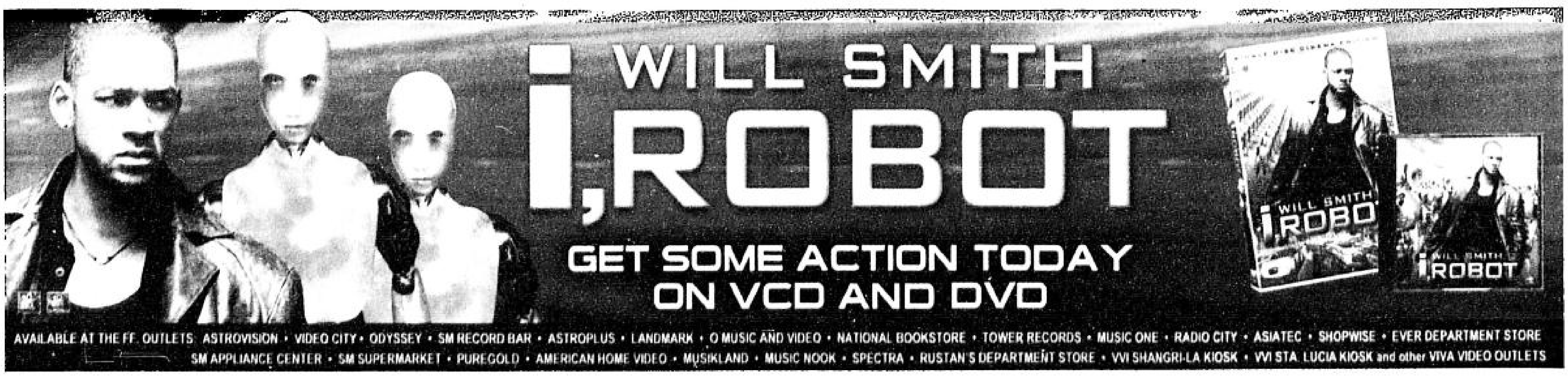
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Michael Williams is 'Tickled Pink'

By Rito P. Asilo

MICHAEL Williams has good reason to be excited these days. In New Voice's 10th anniversary offering, Sam Mendes' provocative restaging of Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret" (which opens next week, Nov. 5, at the Music Museum), he gets his thespic chops tweaked again, in a role (as American novelist Clifford Bradshaw) that doesn't require him to do comedy (a genre he's most known for). He takes on the challenge head on.

Challenges are nothing new to Mike. In the late '80s, the versatile actor, equipped with an exceptional singing voice, made it to the original staging of "Miss Saigon" at the West End.

Soon after, he won a coveted role (Lun Tha) in another well-loved musical, "The King and I," which toured the UK. He could have chosen to pursue a lucrative career in that European theater hub. But, home—the Philippines—is where his heart is.

WILLIAMS. Home is where his heart is.

15 characters

Last year, we directed Michael in a two-actor play ("Stones in His Pockets") that required him and Jamie Wilson to portray 15 characters! "Defining" all those roles were a struggle, but we had a great time shaping them because the two actors didn't just possess the thespic skill needed to pull off the theatrical high-wire act, they had the right attitude, as well.

Another proof of Mike's humility and professionalism was when we offered him a small part in "Sacrilege" last September. His character only appeared in two scenes and had very few lines, but we wanted experienced, thinking actors on hand due to the sensitive nature of the play (about women in the priesthood). He accepted the role with no hesitation

Unique musical revue

On Nov. 11 and 17 at 10 p.m. at CCP's Silangan Hall, Michael will revisit his musical-theater roots at the CCP Theater Festival, in a unique musical revue, "Tickled Pink," a theatrical concept that he's long wanted to do. But, wait a minute—pink?

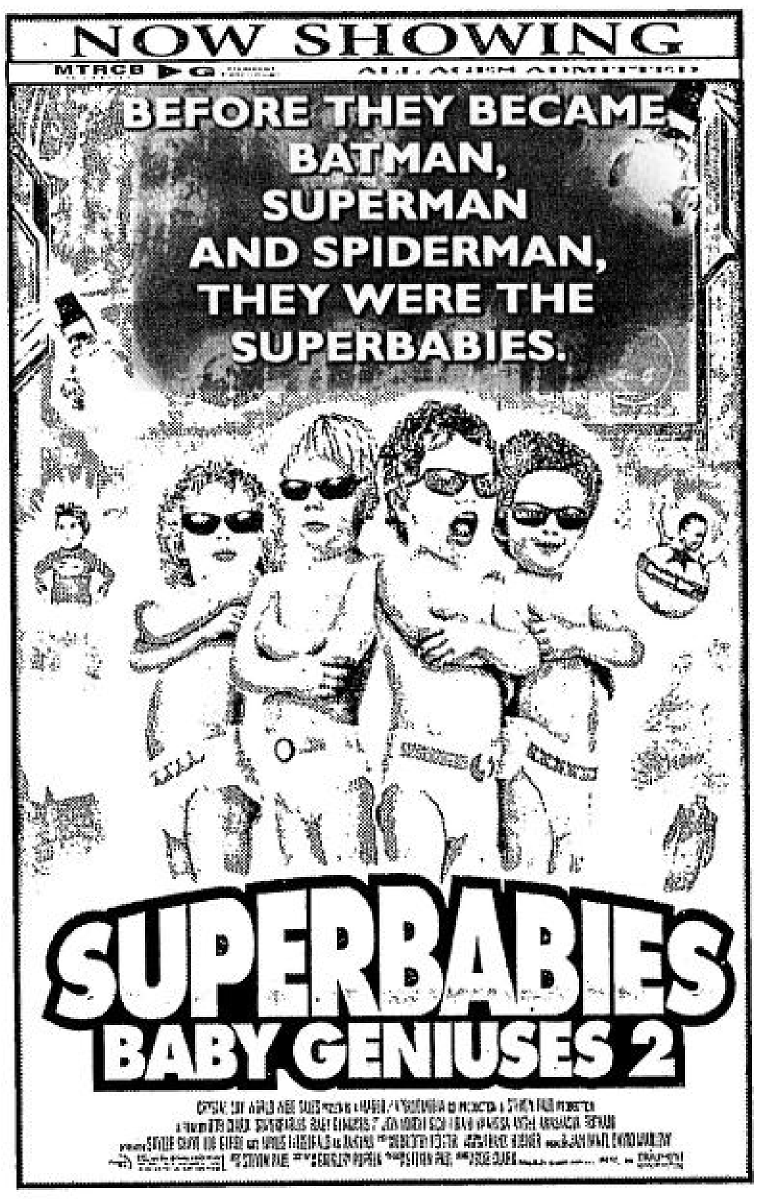
He laughs as he explains: "Gender-bending musicals like 'Falsettos' and 'La Cage Aux Folles' have consistently been sources of amusement—but, at the same time, their lovely songs offer tremendous entertainment and valuable lessons.

"We won't just show characters as they struggle with their sexuality—we want to explore their trials as they cope with angst, pain, heartbreak and rejection. Their problems are not much different from the rest of humanity's.

Themes

"It took me sometime to flesh out the concept, but when Chris Millado asked me to do a show for the festival, something clicked. Besides, the CCP is the best place to tackle these themes. I asked Roselyn Perez to write the script and Rony Fortich to do the music."

"Tickled Pink's" repertoire will feature songs like "What More Can I Say," "I Put a Little Mascara On," "Luck Be A Lady" and "I've Never Been in Love Before" from "Guys and Dolls," and the hauntingly beautiful "Meadowlark," from "The Baker's Wife."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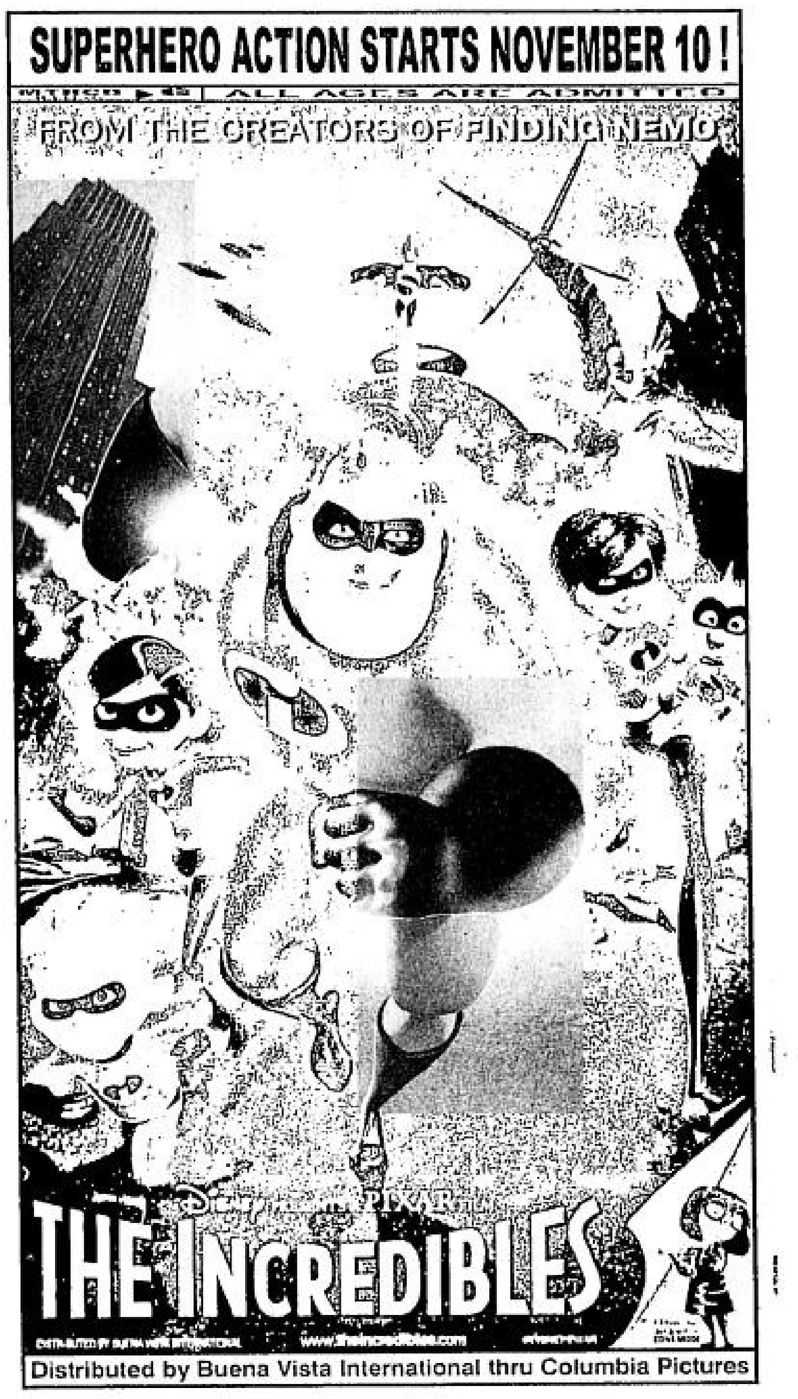
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Viewers demand more from television hosts

Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent pieces on inept TV hosts have elicited comments from various people, including some program hosts themselves.

In general, they agree with us that the TV hosting scene has been co-opted by too many pretty-face celebrities who have turned program hosts overnight, without realizing that the job is complex and demanding.

Our respondents bewail the current supremacy on the TV screen of looks and celebrity, to the diminution of the importance of intelligence, articulateness, educational background, experience, and other skills that used to be required of TV hosting talents.

Relevant areas

Other essential skills they cited include genuine interest in a wide range of topics and guests, ability to clearly express yourself without the aid of written spiels and prepared questions, and the knack for steering the conversation into relevant areas, so that the interview adequately clarifies the topic being discussed.

These requirements are so daunting that one of our respondents admitted that it took him many months before he got the hang of the hosting job.

Contrastingly, pretty celebrities armed with little more than an appropriately named idiot board feel they can instantly host a wide range of program types without taxing their brain cells.

Another issue that our respondents raised was the fact that some TV hosts today are too busy to do a good job, even if they're better prepared than most.

They worried that hosts doing one or several long interviews each day were quickly running out of energy, fresh takes and genuine interest, and were thus ending up doing mediocre, predictable work.

Substantial interviews

They urged these excessively busy hosts to cut down on their workload, so they could come up with genuinely interesting and substantial interviews, or else their hard-earned reputations would suffer.

As for the pretty celebrities who are hosting shows all over the place, their bosses are urged to uphold hosting standards more strictly, and give less weight to looks and popularity, because viewers want and deserve more professional work from on-camera TV talents.

Looks and celebrity take care of the entertainment aspect of television, but there's also the matter of information and communication, which should be given greater importance.

TV executives will just have to be made to understand that viewers don't like being taken for granted, or regarded as simpletons who delight in brainless and clueless hosting.

We're thinking people, so give us TV hosts who are at least as intelligent as we are. Is that too much to ask?

TERROR STRIKES NOVEMBER 3
MTRCB PG-13
WHAT IF EVERYTHING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED EVERYTHING YOU'VE KNOWN NEVER HAPPENED?
THE FORGOTTEN
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sony.com/TheForgotten
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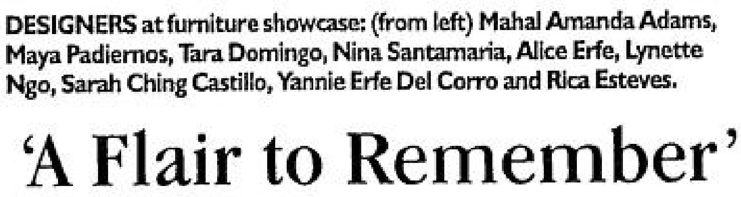
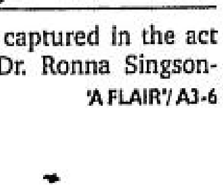
MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
katie holmes
first daughter
OPENS NOVEMBER 3



DESIGNERS at furniture showcase: (from left) Mahal Amanda Adams, Maya Padiernos, Tara Domingo, Nina Santamaria, Alice Erfe, Lynette Ngo, Sarah Ching Castillo, Yannie Erfe Del Corro and Rica Esteves.

'A Flair to Remember'

STREET SMART



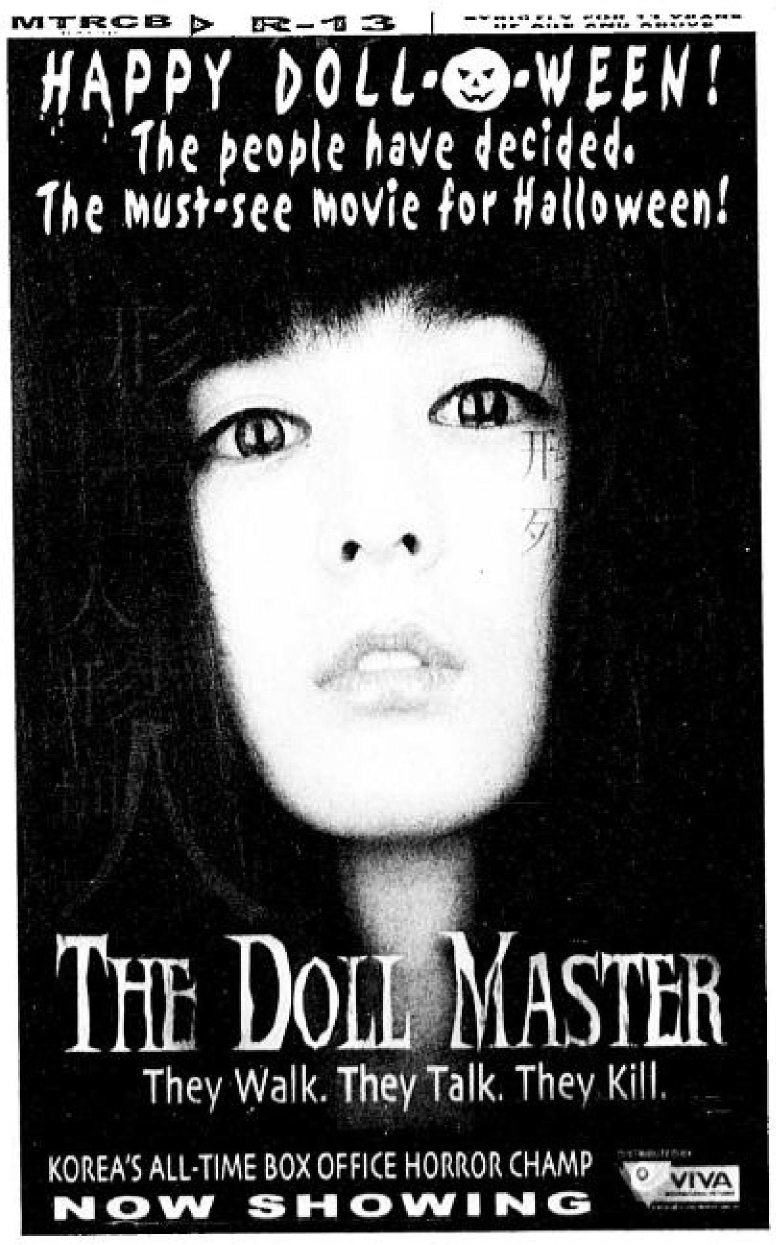
Mandy Navasero

FROM Nov. 9 to 22, the LRI Business Plaza located at 210 Nicanor Garcia st. (formerly Reposo) in Makati will display photographs, furniture designs and artworks in "A Flair to Remember." Thirty stores including our photo studio will be featured in the event.

Photo exhibit

My photo exhibit, "A Flair for Reading," will showcase 30 notable people captured in the act of reading. Dr. Ronna Singson-

'A FLAIR'/ A3-6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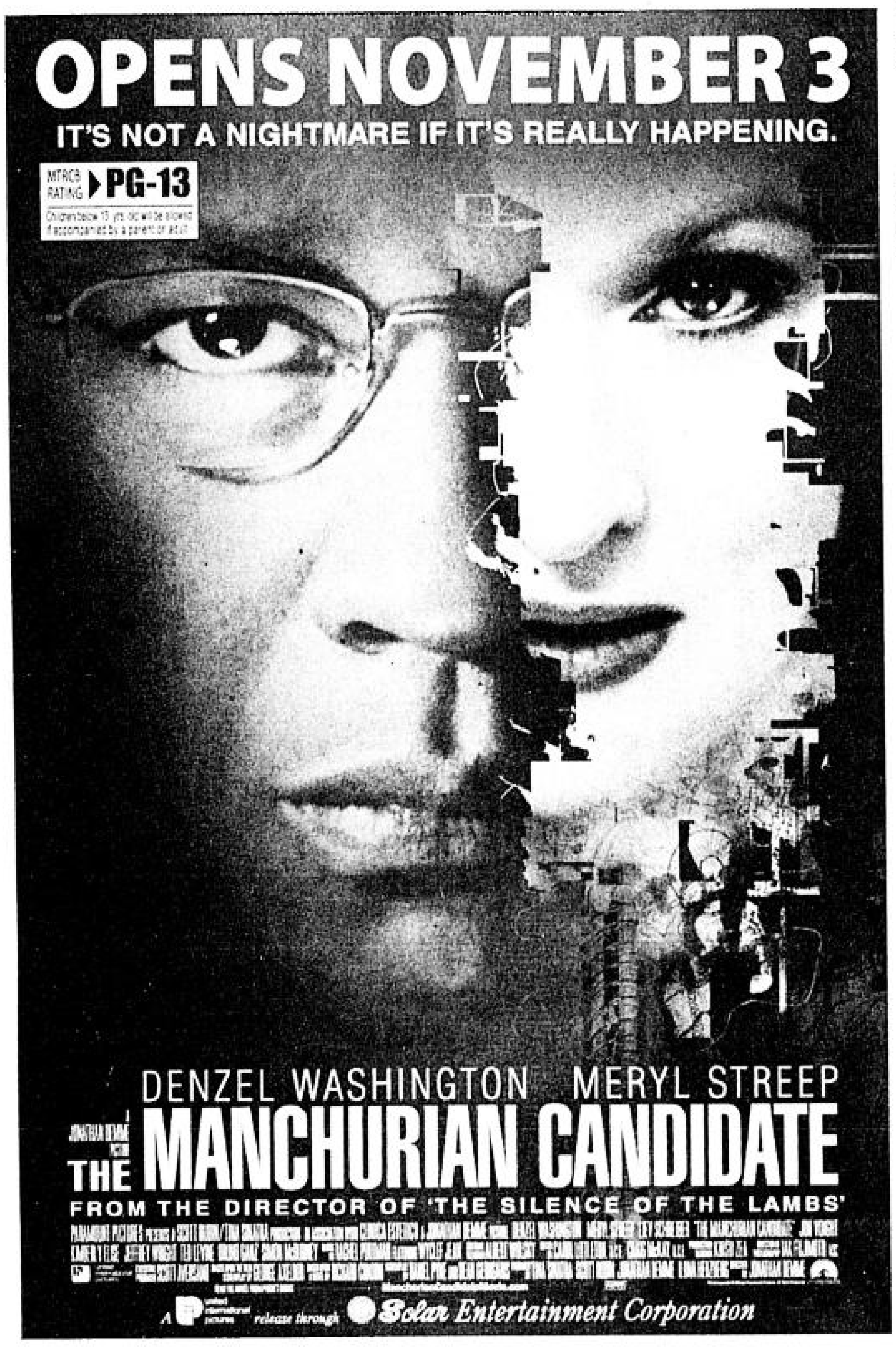
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MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13
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THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS'
A United International Pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

Authenticity is 'CSI's' main attraction

By Noelani Torre

NOW on its fifth season, the hugely successful "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" is, according to TV Tome, responsible "for a large surge of applications of courses in forensic science" in the States.

Reasons for the show's popularity aren't hard to pinpoint. It's still basically a police series, and this means whodunits, violence, and the good, old satisfaction that comes from nabbing the bad guy.

It is also a science and medical show that gives us juicy facts and the illusion of knowledge. The combination is irresistible.

PETERSEN. Plays Gil Grissom on the crime show.

Lowdown

Before anything else, here's the lowdown on the show:

It features the hard-working members of the Crime Scene Investigation unit (night shift) of the Las Vegas Police Department, headed by Detective Gil Grissom (William Peterson). We follow them around as they investigate a crime scene, analyze organic and inorganic tissues, conduct experiments to prove a theory, and so on, until the bad guy is caught.

In the course of their work, they explain things and acquaint us with fascinating scientific processes and paraphernalia that lead to the solution of a crime.

Of course, the human element is always present, but it's there mainly for fleshing-out purposes. The star of the show is the crime scene investigation itself.

The show's makers go all the way in the authenticity department. All of the equipment they use in the lab is real. They all work, and they were "either purchased outright, or donated/loaned to the show for product placement."

They even based their two main officers, Grissom and partner Catherine Willows (Marg Helgenberger), on actual criminologists from the Las Vegas PD.

Episode

Authenticity is the main attraction. After all, a show that advertises the supremacy of scientific methods must have a veneer of authenticity.

In fact, they based one episode on an actual murder that Devine had solved when she was still an investigator.

As for us third-worlders who can't hope to speak to a policeman when we ring their emergency number, "CSI" is almost like a science fiction program.

We understand the explanations, but the situations are so far removed from our own experiences that they might as well be happening on another planet.

'A Flair to Remember'

From page A3-5

Ledesma considers reading "a luxury." She says that the state of her heart and mind is greatly influenced by the books she reads.

Furniture showcase

Promising furniture designers gather in a rare exhibit to display extricate furniture items and home furnishings. Young designers will showcase current design trends: Tara Domingo and Pam Agabin 's innovative use of "electric mix" in bedrooms; Sarah and Paolo Castillo's "Asian flair" in dining rooms; Nina Santamaria and Mahal Amanda Adams' contemporary home-office designs; Rica Esteves and Maya Padiernos' "metal modern" living room, and Yanni del Corro and Lynette Ngo's tropical design for a lanai.

Art galleries

Gallery BiG will present "The Big Night" featuring artists like Marcel Antonio, Arturo Luz, Norma Belleza, Jun Balasbas and Ramon Orlina.

Art collectors, dealers and aficionados will be treated to the works of Cobie Cruz and Rico Lascano at Galerie Astra, Paris-based Celine Huon at Alliance Francaise. Ricco Renzo presents Norlie Meinban's "Seated" and Nestor Villanueva's "Poetry in My Eyes."

Email author mandy-navasero@photopro.com.ph

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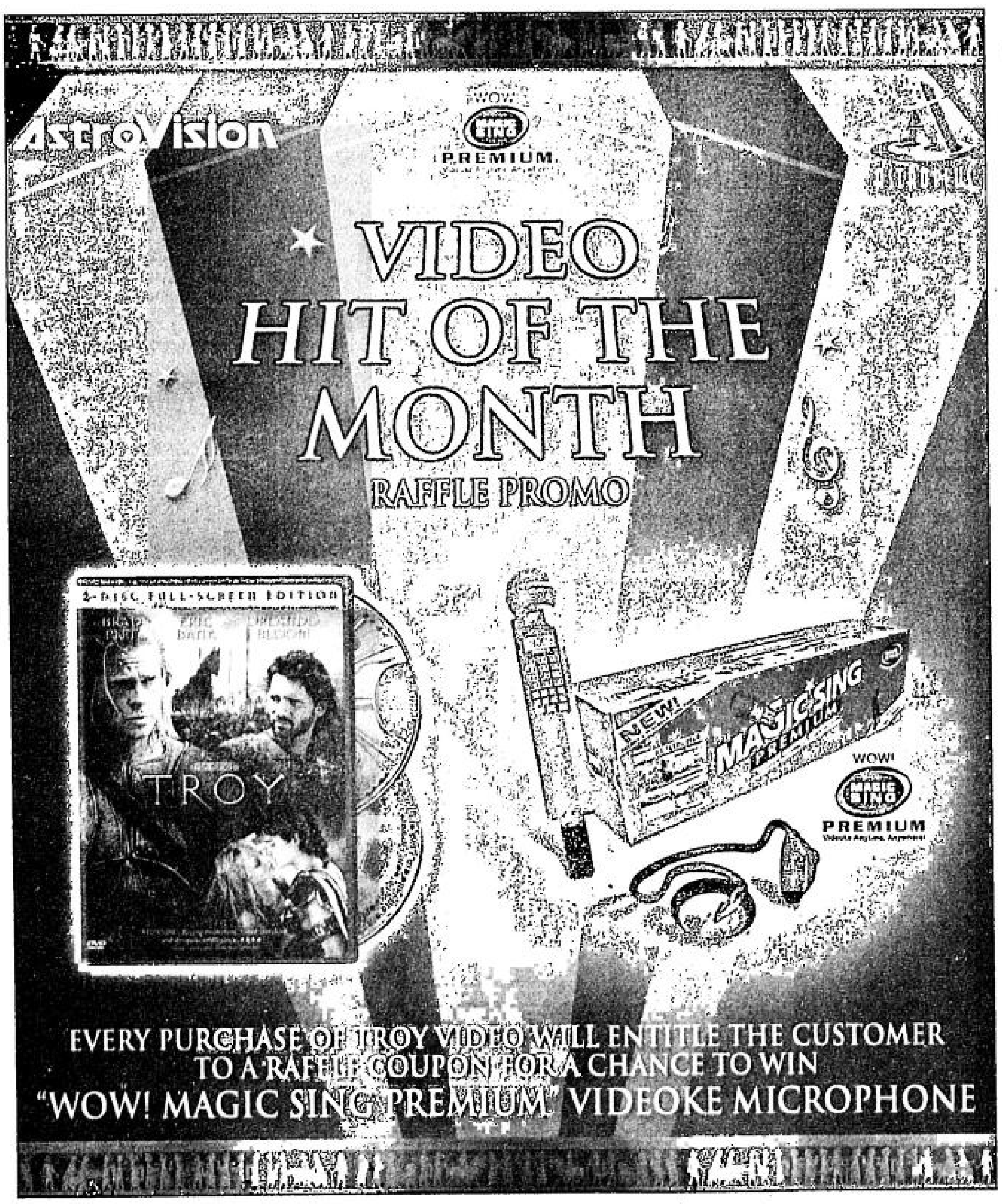
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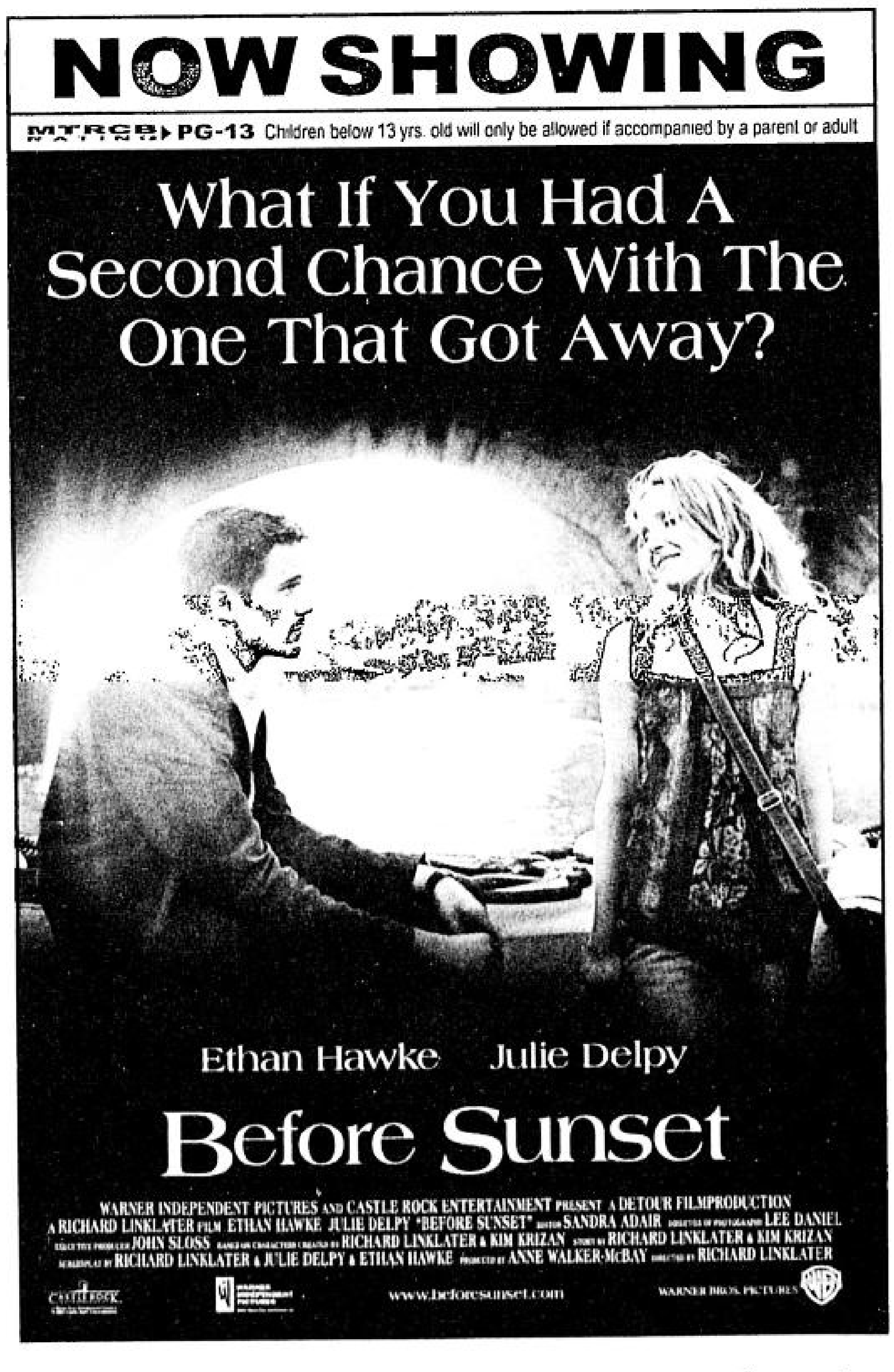
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Johansson up for UK . . .

From page A3-8

In the best actor category, former photographer Paddy Considine was nominated for his role in "Dead Man's Shoes," Phil Davis for "Vera Drake," and Ian Hart for the Beirut hostage drama, "Blind Flight."

Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush was nominated for "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers," a film about the man best known as Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther films.

Scourge of right-wing America, Michael Moore, may add another award to his Oscar with the nomination of his anti-war film, "Fahrenheit 9/11," for best foreign film. *Reuters*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, October 30, 2004

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ABS-CBN 2	Ek Channel		Hoy Gising!		Nginig: The Hidden Files		Born Diva		TV Patrol	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Star Cinema Presents			Home Along The Airport		Kontrobersyal		Sports Unlimited
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision					Concert at the Park		Yan Ang Pinoy		Search For The 1st Tanduay Billiards Player		To Be Announced		Family Rosary Crusade			
ABC 5	Trip Ko To	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown		Fearless Fighting		Asian 9 Ball		Viva Box Office				Sing Galing		Maverick & Ariel	ABC Treats		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang	Wag Kukurap (4.45PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge	Imbestigador (8.15PM)			Idol Ko Si Kap			Out	
RPN 9		BIR	Biyaheng Langit	JR Newswatch	What's Up Day?	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		7 Days		JAG		Frankenstein And Me				RPN Forum	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Jobs & Visa Central		Brag		D.E.N.R.		Global Family Series		Ugnayang Pambansa			
Solar		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential		Wow		Slamball		Mano-Mano	UFC Recall				
Nickelodeon	Double Decker				Sabrina The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Fairly Odd Parents	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Yakkity Yak	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	SoKick	All Grown Up	Double Decker				Best Nick - Non-Stop Hits	
ETC		Dateline		The Today Show		Saturday Night Live		NBC Nightly News	Knock First	One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For A Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One	Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot				Pedro Penduko 2				My Movie				La Vida Rosa				Narito Ang Puso Ko		
Studio 23								Sports TV	Game Plan	7th Heaven		Boston Public (7.50PM)	Gilmore Girls (8.40PM)		Studio 23 Present				Reel Deal
AXN			The President's Man, Ground 0				Rescue 911	WRC 2004 Rally XS. Spain	Boarding Pass	Now See This	Now See This	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias		Bet Your Life			
Star World	Inspector Gadget	Stupid Behavior Caught On Tape	When Hidden Cameras Attack	Knight Rider		Baywatch		Roswell		Dark Angel		TNA Wrestling		Mutant X		Coupling	The Office	Cops	Baywatch Hawaii
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Design 360	World News	Diplomatic License	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Daily Show With John S
National Geographic	On Assignment	Big Bite Nite				Wildlife Diary	Crittercam Wildtech Adventure	Creature Feature				Saturday Untamed				Big Bite Nite			
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites II Temple Food	Brini Maxwell Show	Royalty A-Z		Fashion Emergency	E! True Hollywood Story		Planet Parent	Sweet Dreams
HBO			Excess Baggage (3.45PM)				Malibu's Most Wanted			Spider-Man				Punch-Drunk Love			Sex And The City 85 The Domino Effect	Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (11.05PM)	
Star Movies	Sleeping With The Enemy (2.45PM)				Hollywood One On One (4:20PM)	Holiday In The Sun (4.50PM)			Liberty Stands Still (6.25PM)			The Grid			Barb Wire (9.35PM)			Star Wars Episode 2 - Attack Of The Clones	
Cartoon Network		New Scooby & Scrappy-Doo Show	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	What's New Scooby Doo?	X-Men Evolution	The Powerpuff Girls	Atomic Betty	Xiaolin Showdown	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Halloween Tree			Power Rangers Wild Force	Samurai Jack	Time Squad	Harvey Birdman (11:15PM)	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe
ESPN				Premier Snooker League 2003 Southport, UK		Pool/Snooker World Pool Masters 2004, Snooker Premier League 04 Wiltshire, UK				English Premier Football League 2004/05 ([illegible]55PM)									
Cinemax			Gotti (3:45PM)				The Cowboy Way (5.45PM)				The Parole Officer			No Mercy			The Scorpion King (10:45PM)		
Hallmark Channel		Cavedweller				Love Comes Softly				The King and Queen Of Moonlight Bay				She's Too Young			American Gun (10.35PM)		
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Extreme Machines		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		Human Senses		Extreme Discovery	
MTV Philippines		Non-Stop Hits		One Bad Trip	Cribs	MTV Rockd	Dismissed	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Screen	MTV Urban Beats	Spring Break	Non-Stop Hits	MTV Diyos		MTV2 Presents		VH1 TV Moments Hard Rock	
EWTN	Suffering Church	The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy In Song	Fatima Heaven's Peace Plan	Saints And Heroes	Faith Factory	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	The World Over		Octava Dies	The Church And Culture Today	Daily Mass		Angelus (9.15PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	The Journey Home		Life on The Rock Encore	

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JOHANSSON. Cited for "Girl With A Pearl Earring."

Johansson up for UK film award

LONDON—Spoof zombie splatterfest, "Shaun of the Dead" and indie movie darling Scarlett Johansson are two of the nominees announced jostling for gongs at the British Independent Film Awards (BIFA).

Now in their seventh year, the awards contrast Hollywood glamour with down-to-earth British drama, and familiar names, such as director Mike Leigh.

"This year's nominees reflect the growing strength and diversity of British independent filmmaking," said BIFA founder Elliot Grove.

Dutch maid

Johansson is the highest profile name in the best actress category, nominated for her part in "Girl With A Pearl Earring," the tale of a Dutch maid and her artist master.

Former Coronation Street actress Anne Reid was also nominated for her part in the cross-generational romance, "The Mother," and Eva Birthistle for her role in the interracial romance, "Ae Fond Kiss."

Critics' favorite Imelda Staunton, winner of multiple theater awards, was nominated for her part in "Vera Drake," veteran director Mike Leigh's latest offering, which dominates the nominations, along with "Dead Man's Shoes."

Both films are in the running for Best British Independent Film.

Survival story

The other films in the category are mountaineering survival story, "Touching the Void," "Shaun of the Dead" and the friendship drama, "My Summer of Love."

Brotherly love and violent retribution feature in "Dead Man's Shoes," which received eight nominations, while "Vera Drake," about a 1950s abortionist, received seven.

JOHANSSON/A3-7

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STEWART. Absolutely thrilled.

Rod Stewart is back at No. 1

LOS ANGELES—Rod Stewart's lucrative outing into the world of romantic golden oldies paid off when he recently topped the US album charts for the first time in 25 years.

Stewart's newly released "Stardust . . . The Great American Songbook: Volume III" sold more than 240,000 copies according to Nielsen SoundScan data supplied to Reuters.

In his trademark raspy voice, Stewart delivers versions of old pop standards like "What a Wonderful World," with Stevie Wonder on harmonica, "Blue Moon," with Eric Clapton on guitar, and duets with Bette Midler on "Manhattan" and Dolly Parton on "Baby, It's Cold Outside."

Reaction

"He's absolutely thrilled," his manager, Arnold Stiefel, said of Stewart's reaction. "He's happy that so many fans have taken to this music. It inspires him to sing it better. I've never known him happier."

Stewart, 59, last topped the US charts in 1979 with "Blondes Have More Fun," which many critics consider to be the nadir of a career that began in the 1960s, when he was one of the top blues singers in England (with the Jeff Beck Group). "Blondes" featured the No. 1 pop hit, "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?"

"That was in the crazy days of the disco era. It certainly did have an eventual backlash on his core male audience," said Stiefel, who started managing Stewart in 1981.

Comeback

Stewart mounted a comeback a few years ago by signing with J Records, a new label formed by Clive Davis, the man behind Carlos Santana's resurrection.

Stewart's first release under that deal, "It Had to Be You . . . The Great American Songbook: Volume I," debuted at No. 4 in 2002 and has sold 2.6 million copies to date in the United States.

Its 2003 sequel, "As Time Goes By . . . The Great American Songbook: Volume II," debuted at No. 2 and has sold 2.1 million copies.

Reuters

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ALLEN AND HANKS (AS ANIMATED CHARACTER). Topbill "Christmas with the Kranks" and "The Polar Express," respectively.

Hanks, Allen bring holiday cheer

By Nestor U. Torre

SINCE Christmas buzz starts *really* early in these parts, some viewers are already looking forward to this season's crop of new Yuletide films. Well, reports from Hollywood have it that Tom Hanks and Tim Allen will bring holiday cheer to the big screen with two potential blockbusters this Christmas.

Both of their starrers are based on well-loved books—Hanks' "The Polar Express," on the award-winning modern classic by Chris Van Allsburg, and Allen's "Christmas with the Kranks," adapted from John Grisham's bestseller, "Skipping Christmas."

The big surprise this season is the innovative way that Hanks' performance in "The Polar Express" has been brought to the screen. The film is an animated feature—with a difference.

Groundbreaking

Hanks didn't just "voice-act" his part in the animated production, he also "moved" it with the use of groundbreaking Motion Capture technology. This is the first feature film to be shot entirely in this new format.

How does it work? Sensors were taped to the actor's face and body, and his facial expressions and movements were recorded, and used as guidelines for the production's animators.

Hanks comments on the new technique: "As an actor, I was able to imprint my performance onto the story, as opposed to going into the recording studio and merely providing voices. It was fun, but it was also very challenging.

"Because of the sensors, everything you do registers, so you can't afford to make a mistake. On the other hand, having the momentum of shooting for minutes at a time and getting it all like one continuous moment—that's as free as I've ever felt as an actor. It was like being in the theater again."

In fact, the experience was so positive in its effect on Hanks that he agreed to play more than one character in the production.

Better grasp

After director Robert Zemeckis had gotten a better grasp of what Performance Capture could do, he suggested that Hanks also play the film's main character, a young boy!

So, Hanks put on his sensors again, and "moved" the part of the eight-year-old boy. With his vast experience, he came up with a more felt and insightful performance than if a kid had "moved" the part.

This technique is so radical that some people may find it confounding. But, both Hanks and Zemeckis were thrilled to explore its possibilities, and predicted that other animated productions would soon embrace the innovative technology in a big way.

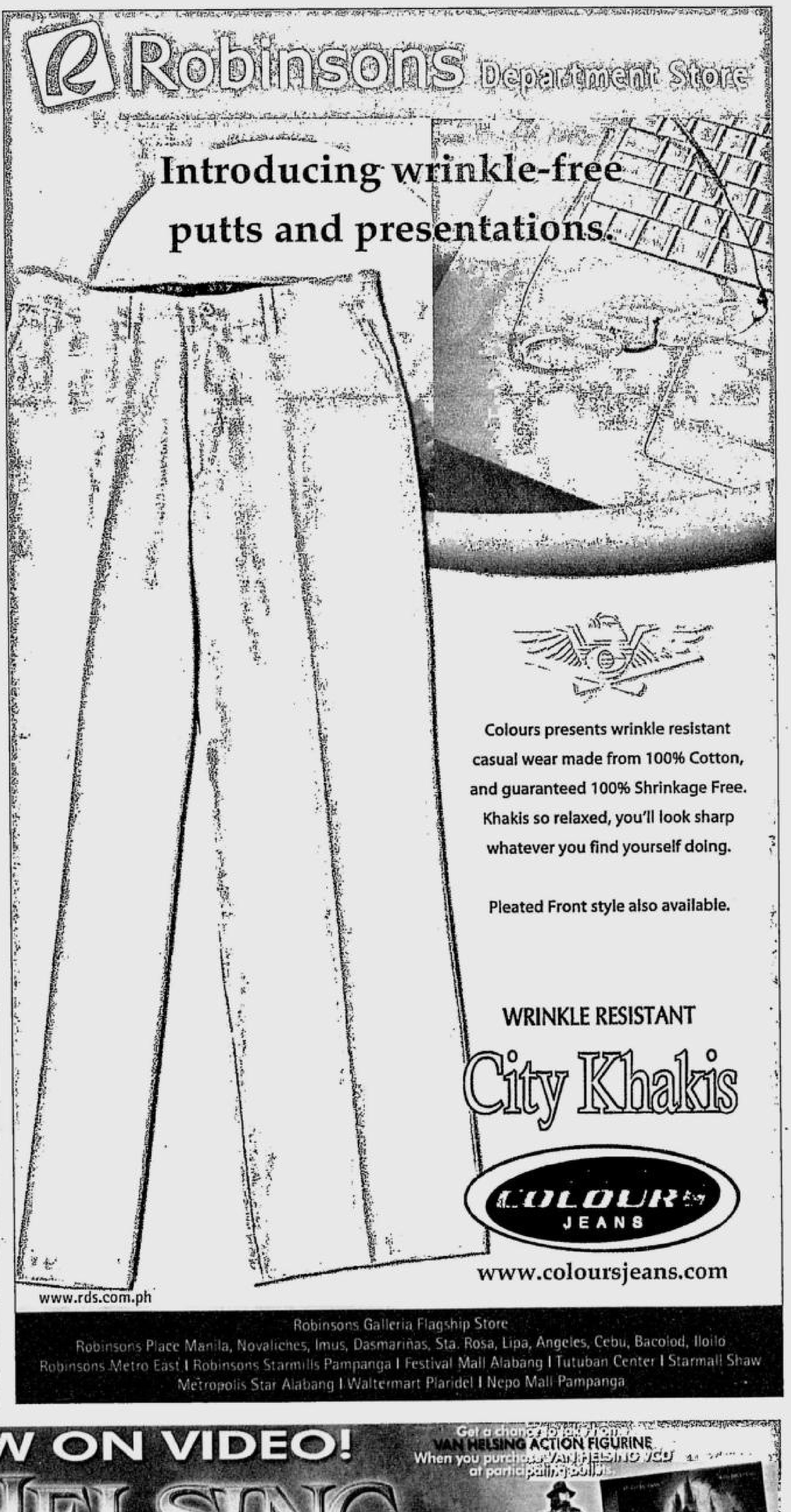
In fact, they were so energized by the new procedure that Hanks ended up "moving" *five* key roles in the production —the boy, the boy's father, the conductor, the mysterious hobo, and Santa Claus!

Thematic sense

To Zemeckis, this approach made thematic sense because "they are the main adult characters the boy interacts with. All of them carry with them the meaningful weight of the story. And, more to the point, they spring from the boy's own consciousness."

For his part, Tim Allen stars in the new family comedy, "Christmas with the Kranks." He plays Luther Krank, who decides to skip Christmas and all of its trappings, and go on a vacation with his wife Nora (Jamie Lee Curtis), instead.

But, at the last minute, their daughter decides to come home for the holidays, so he is forced to put Christmas back together again!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Auspicious start for Asia Pacific Film Institute

By Nestor U. Torre

THE GOOD news that directors Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Ben Yalung have joined forces and resources to put up the Asia Pacific Film Institute has invigorated the movie scene in general, and the region's future filmmakers in particular.

Special interest has been generated by the new institute's top-notch faculty and 35mm studio compound with professional shooting, sound, lighting and laboratory facilities.

It's instructive to note that Marilou and Ben's working relationship spans a full 20 years.

In 1984, he produced "Karnal," which she directed. That initial collaboration won major awards at the Metro Manila Film Festival, was exhibited at international filmfests, and was cited by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino as one of the best films of the '80s.

The auspicious start augurs well for the two filmmaker's latest collaboration, the regional film institute which Marilou has conceptualized, and makes full use of Ben's post-production studio, Cine Color.

Committed

Marilou is known to the public as one of the country's best filmmakers, but those who know her really well also regard her as a committed teacher. For more than 20 years, she's been teaching film subjects at the Ateneo, despite her busy schedule as a director and film industry leader.

Thus, it's no surprise to them that she's now wearing her newest hat, as Director of Studies of the Asia Pacific Film Institute, which opens its doors to the region's future filmmakers in January 2005.

ABAYA. Has always loved teaching.

Marilou herself observes, "I've always loved teaching—maybe because I've always been a student at heart. Ever since I was eight, I wanted to become a professional teacher. But, making movies pulled me in another, equally attractive direction."

At the Ateneo, year after year since 1981, a dozen students have taken her directing class and graduate to her professional film sets and other related industries. Some of her students are Jeffrey Jeturian, Quark Henares, Judy Lou de Pio, Rafael Ongpin, Bill Velasco, Manet Dayrit and Tara Illenberger.

Program

For the APFI, Marilou has designed a studies program that suits the needs of budding filmmakers in the Asia Pacific region.

This regional scope is significant, because it recalls the time in the '50s and '60s when Filipino movie artists and craftsmen were invited to other Asian countries to teach filmmaking there.

The Filipino film industry is in trouble these days, but the expertise of its best film people remains high, and through the APFI, is again being used to help raise the level of filmmaking in the region.

The institute's regional thrust is also significant because many film experts predict that it's in the Asia Pacific region that world cinema will launch its "post-Hollywood" period, which is expected to come about when the US film capital loses its creative edge due to sheer "blockbuster" commercialism.

This region has the culture, the artists and the huge film audience to energize such a shift of focus and power, and the APFI has opened just in time to help initiate that major shift.

Marilou describes the emerging cinematic landscape: "Here, in a specific cultural context, the institute drills its students in the various disciplines of filmmaking, and motivates them to find the means to make their dream movies.

Exclusive domain

"No longer is the movie industry the exclusive domain of big studios and syndicated theater owners. Today, there is easier access to all kinds of motion picture cameras, editing tools and screening venues, which make 'home movies' not only a popular hobby, but also a potential money-earning activity.

"We want our students to *imagine* and *realize* the broad but untapped spectrum of possibilities for producing and watching Asian cinema."

Budding filmmakers who want to be a part of the APFI movement are invited to call (917) 857-9989, email study@asiapacificfilm.com, or access www.asiapacificfilm.com.

Protecting Mother Earth

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

I HAVE a friend who is experiencing serious hair loss. Every time she combs her hair, she agonizes upon seeing strands falling on her shoulders.

To a woman, hair is an integral part of physical beauty. We admire women who have long, black tresses that gently sway as they move.

Asset

It's not just an asset. It is also a protective feature that shields our head from the scorching sun, and keeps our head warm during cold weather.

In ancient Vedic literature, Mother Earth is described as having lush growth covering her head—these are the trees and plants that cool the environment and keep the earth from drying up.

Trees don't only connote beauty. They serve a vital role for the survival of life forms. They provide food and medicine, and give off oxygen.

Unfortunately, even Mother Earth is experiencing a heavy fallout of "hair." Irresponsible people have been shaving off her tresses and exposing her head to harsh conditions.

If someone went to our biological mother, and pulled and shaved off her hair, we would be greatly offended.

Mother Earth is *also* our mother. She has patiently nurtured our existence by providing food, air and water. Despite her generosity and kindness, some of her children exploit her, while most of us sit passively as we watch.

Solutions

We have concocted solutions for falling hair: formulated shampoo, implants, hair growth formula, etc. We worry about falling hair, but we don't think about Mother Earth's serious situation.

It's about time we do.

We owe it to our Mother to protect the very gifts that make existence on this planet possible and bearable.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

Usher, Linkin Park take home Radio Music Awards

LAS VEGAS—This time, Ashlee Simpson sang it for real.

We think.

The 19-year-old pop artist was among a slew of stars who played during the 2004 Radio Music Awards on the Las Vegas Strip.

Usher and Linkin Park took home two honors each. Usher won hip-hop artist and hip-hop song of the year. Linkin Park grabbed the alternative rock song and rock artist of the year.

Destiny's Child opened the celebrity-laden show, wowing a screaming audience with "Lose My Breath."

USHER. Hip-hop artist of the year.

Performances

Train, Chingy, Elton John, Tim McGraw, Big & Rich, Gretchen Wilson and Alanis Morissette also dazzled the crowd with their performances.

But, whether she liked it or not, Simpson was at the center of the show, thanks to a glitch on "Saturday Night Live" that revealed she had been lip-synching one of her songs.

Before she sang "Autobiography" off her hit album, host Carson Daly reassured the audience that they were getting a live performance.

"Live, yes live," he said.

When Simpson's band started playing, the younger sister of pop starlet Jessica Simpson screamed, "It's the wrong song." Seconds later, she told a stunned theater filled with hundreds of people that she was "only kidding."

Interview

Later in the evening, she told Daly in an off-stage interview that acid-reflux disease had made her lose her voice four hours before her "SNL" appearance.

She didn't seem concerned about her slip up.

"You move on," Simpson said. "Things happen."

Politics also didn't spoil the night at the venue, where Linda Ronstadt was told to leave in July after praising "Fahrenheit 9/11," Michael Moore's unflattering documentary about President George W. Bush.

Neither Moore nor Ronstadt appeared at the awards show, but former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan made himself seen by wearing a "Vote or Die!" T-shirt. *AP*

Maja Salvador's career heats up

By Jocelyn Valle

EVER since she got into a vehicular accident a few weeks ago, Maja Salvador would start to get panicky whenever her car would suddenly accelerate. "I was traumatized by that experience," she shares. "My knees and feet were badly bruised, so I couldn't walk for four days! Now, I don't even want to learn how to drive anymore."

There's one thing, though, that Maja is glad to be picking up speed these days: Her less-than-a-year-old career in show business. She's in the popular soap, "It Might Be You," and will soon move up to lead-star status in a new show on ABS-CBN.

Reunion movie

The 16-year-old member of the illustrious Salvador show biz clan (her father went by the screen name, Ross Rival) is also in the cast of the reunion movie of director Joyce Bernal and comedian Vhong Navarro, the horror-comedy "D'Anothers."

Gifted singer

Although Maja is a gifted singer and dancer, she wants to focus on acting for now.

"I'd like to be good in drama like my favorite actresses, Vilma Santos, Sharon Cuneta and Maricel Soriano," she shares.

Maja remembers entertaining houseguests with songs and dances when she was a child. "It's always been my dream to be an actress," she smiles.

She credits the workshops she's attended under Beverly Vergel for bringing out the actress in her. "I used to have a hard time expressing emotions in front of the camera, I couldn't cry," she recalls. "During one session at the workshop, I was asked to cry for 10 hours! I learned believability from that exercise."

She's also grateful for the support that she gets from the cast of "It Might Be You," especially John Prats, who's her love interest. "He was my first crush," she giggles. "I used to watch him on 'Ang TV,' and I told my cousins that we would be in a love team someday."

But, when Maja finally met John on the set of their soap, she didn't know how to relate to him. "So, I refrained from talking to him," she winces.

Very close

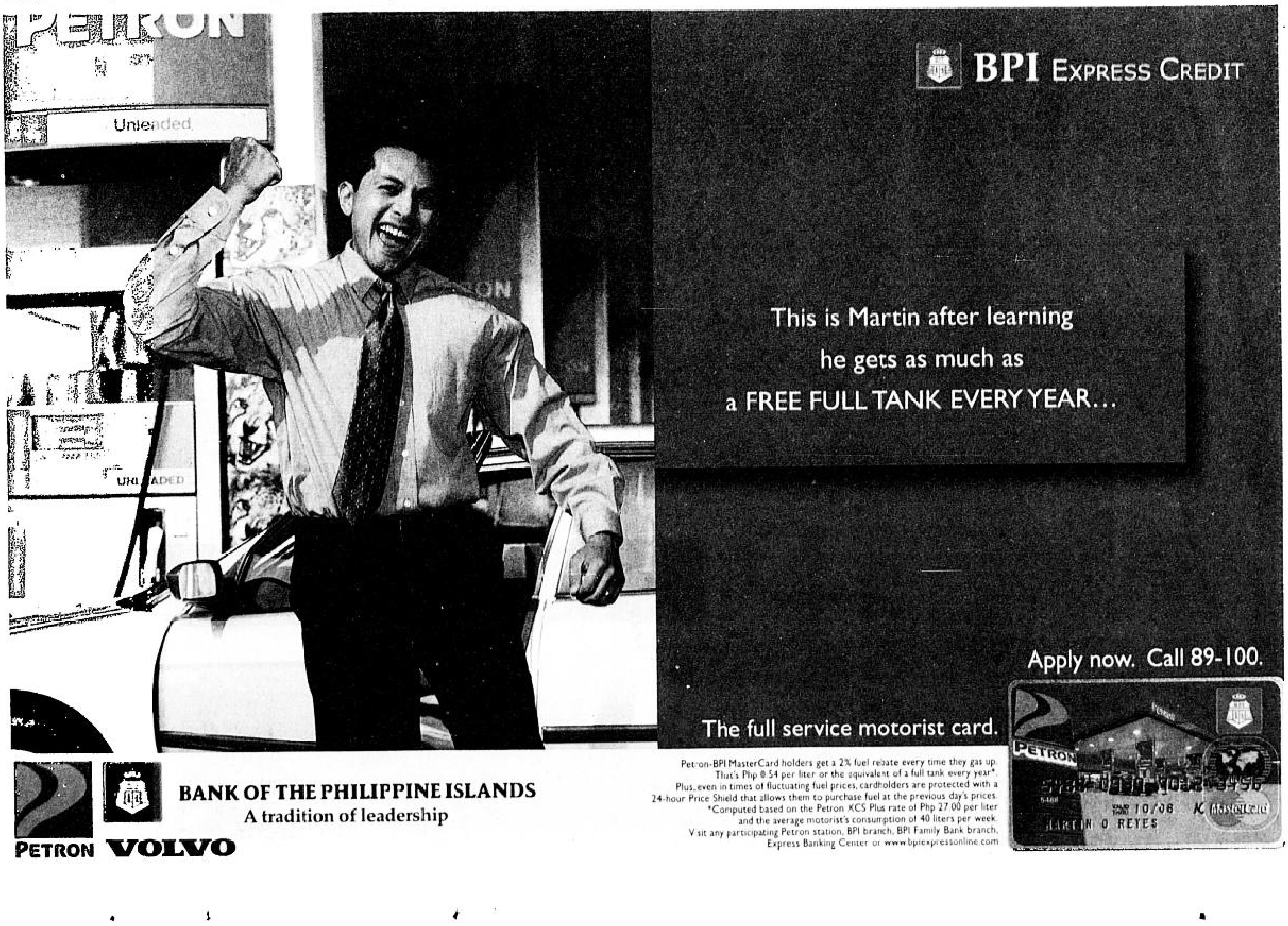
When the characters of John and Bea moved to Pampanga, the young stars had to tape scenes in Cavite. "John and I had nobody else to hang out with except each other, so we got very close."

SALVADOR. Wants to excel in drama.

But, no, there's nothing going on between them, says the pretty actress. Ditto for Igi Boy (Aga Muhlach and Janice de Belen's son), who's said to be courting her, and Railey Valeroso.

Maja has also found friendship with other ABS-CBN talents. She's closest to Roxanne Guinoo. "I rooted for her when she competed in 'SCQ.' But, I miss my school pals. I had to shift to distance learning because of my hectic schedule.

"On my last day in regular school, my classmates cried with me. Too bad, I can't join them on field trips and retreats anymore."



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Spine-tinglers on Hallmark Channel

MONTAGE

CHILLS and thrills, laughter and tears, will fill your viewing nights on the Hallmark Channel, the Asia-Pacific region's leading family entertainment network, "where great stories come to life."

November, after all, is the scariest month of the year. Centerpiece of the November lineup is the "Midsomer Murders" series—four engrossing and engaging cliffhangers, at 9 p.m. every Sunday starting Nov. 7.

"Midsomer Murders" pits an enterprising and intrepid crime-solver against a rogue's gallery of characters. Playing DCI Barnaby, John Nettles leads an impressive cast, which includes Daniel Casey and James Bolam.

CASEY. Plays important role in "Midsomer Murders."

First stop in the hot trail is "Midsomer Murders: Dead Man's Eleven" (premieres on Nov. 7) The tranquil facade of Midsomer County cracks when the cricket team captain's wife is found bludgeoned to death. Then, the team's scorer is fatally stabbed with a Nazi dagger. The body count rises as a web of lies and deception unravels in the seemingly picture-perfect town.

The second enigma in the series is "Midsomer Murders: Death of a Stranger" (Nov. 14). Fresh from his vacation in France, DCI Barnaby gets embroiled in the murder case of a nameless vagrant.

The third puzzle to be solved is "Midsomer Murders: Blue Herrings" (Nov. 21). As DCI Barnaby readies for another holiday, he stumbles on something bizarre: The last wills of several residents are being changed, upon the instigation of the local doctor.

The fourth conundrum in the lineup is "Midsomer Murders: Judgment Day" (Nov. 28). The townsfolk are putting their best foot forward for the "Perfect Village" contest. Their high hopes, however, are soon dashed when a petty thief is impaled with a pitchfork.

Canon captures Sandara's smile

Since she became one of the Top 4 finalists in ABS-CBN's Star Circle Quest months ago, the cameras have never stopped rolling and flashing for the country's teen sensation, Sandara Park.

Although she did not win the top prize, she won the hearts of the Filipino masses as she emerged as the talent search's Texter's Choice. And Sandara-mania was felt all around, as pictures of her are in almost every newspaper and magazine.

Recently, Sandara signed up with leading photographic brand Canon. When asked how she felt about having been chosen by Canon to endorse their latest cameras and digital video camcorders, she said, "I'm happy to endorse Canon. It's a well-known and trusted brand here and abroad."

But, did you know that Sandara enjoys being behind the camera more than she does being in front of it? She confesses, "In my family, I'm the one who takes pictures a lot. I'll be bringing along my Canon cameras with me all the time. I'll take pictures of my activities from now on!"

PARK. Enjoys being behind the camera.

Auditions for musicians and vocalists

An international casting team will be in Manila on Nov. 17 and 18 to audition qualified applicants for full-time entertainment performers in a new theme park in Asia slated to open during the latter part of 2005.

The team is in search of musicians and vocalists who will perform a variety of musical styles at both indoor and outdoor locations, and in various stage shows and atmosphere groups across the new property. The San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts has been tapped to provide support for the auditions.

Professional performers possessing both excellent musicianship and showmanship are being sought in the following instrumentation: piano, harp, percussion (marching drums, drum set, African hand drumming), upright string bass, electric bass, trumpet, trombone, tuba and woodwinds (all saxophone, clarinet, flute and piccolo).

Vocalists, please call the enrolment coordinator, Mr. Deo Dipasupil, at 632-3769 for the list of roles open for auditions. Entertainment audition enrolment forms are now available at SMFPA.

Please bring your most recent 2"x2" full-color photo, detailed resumé and, for vocalists, a demo recording of the songs assigned to the role you are aspiring for, in CD format.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Qualified applicants will be invited to an audition.

Deadline for enrolment is on Nov. 5. Updates will be posted at www.smfpa.com.

Nicotina holds adult Halloween fashion competition

Nicotina Garden Pavilion marks its first Halloween party with a band as it launches "Halloween on the Catwalk," at 9 p.m. on Oct. 30 on Roxas blvd. (beside the DFA).

The unique Halloween event encourages adult guests to participate in the catwalk show displaying their wildest, craziest, scariest outfits in leather, feather, rubber, metal or lace. This for-adults-only fashion competition is the brainchild of Nicotina proprietor Richard Tann.

A panel of distinguished personalities will sit as judges. The winner will receive P10,000. An entrance fee of P350, consumable per person, will be charged. Call 551-7906 or 551-7907.

'Breakups and Breakdowns'

Watch excerpts from Joel Trinidad and Rony Fortich's original musical comedy, "Breakups and Breakdowns" at the CCP Bulwagang Amado Hernandez on Nov. 18, Thursday at 5 p.m. The performance features Pheona Baranda, Topper Fabregas, Lorenz Martinez, Nica Reynoso, Shiela Valderrama and Trinidad. Admission is free.

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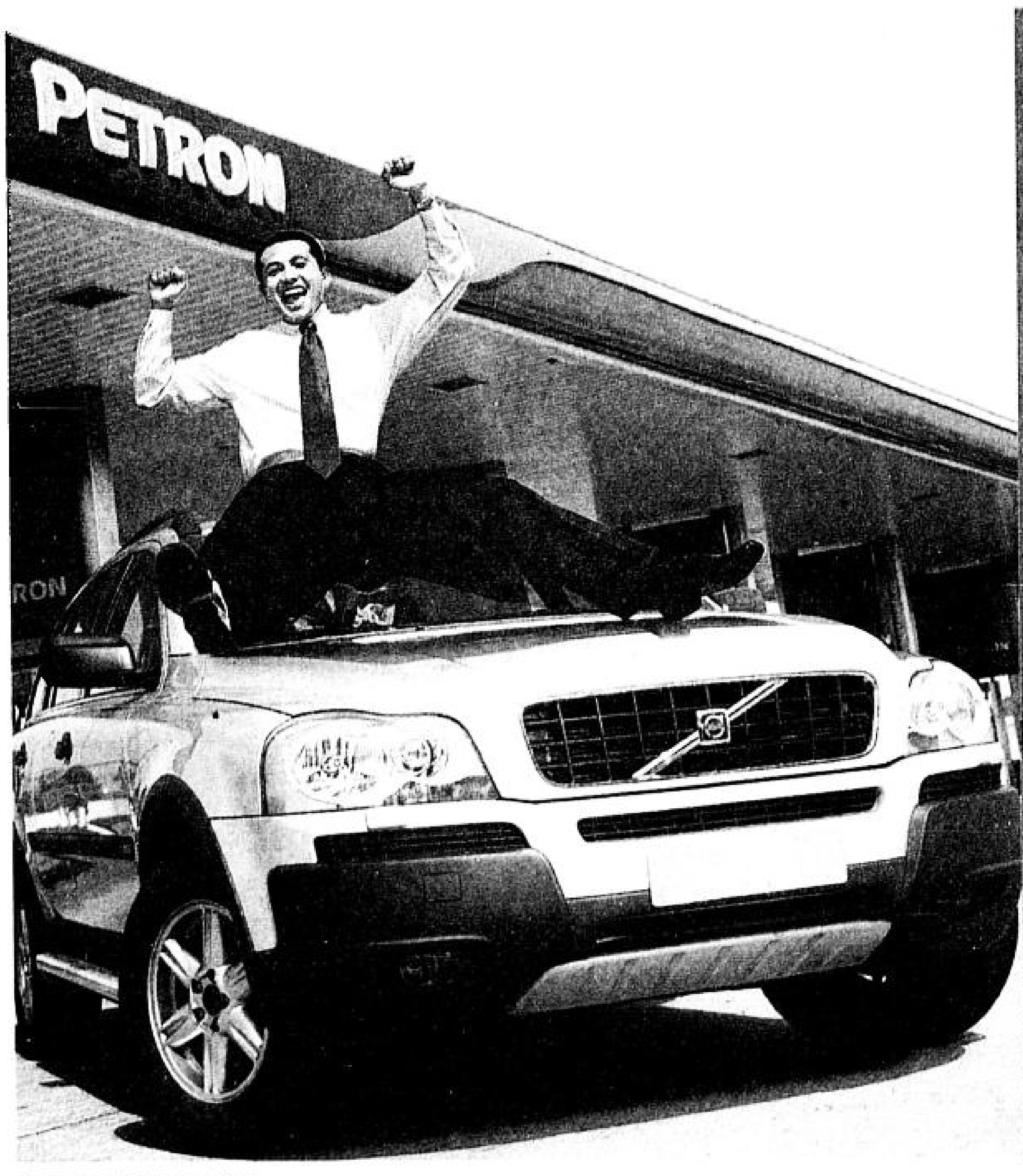

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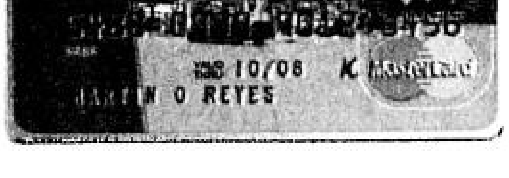

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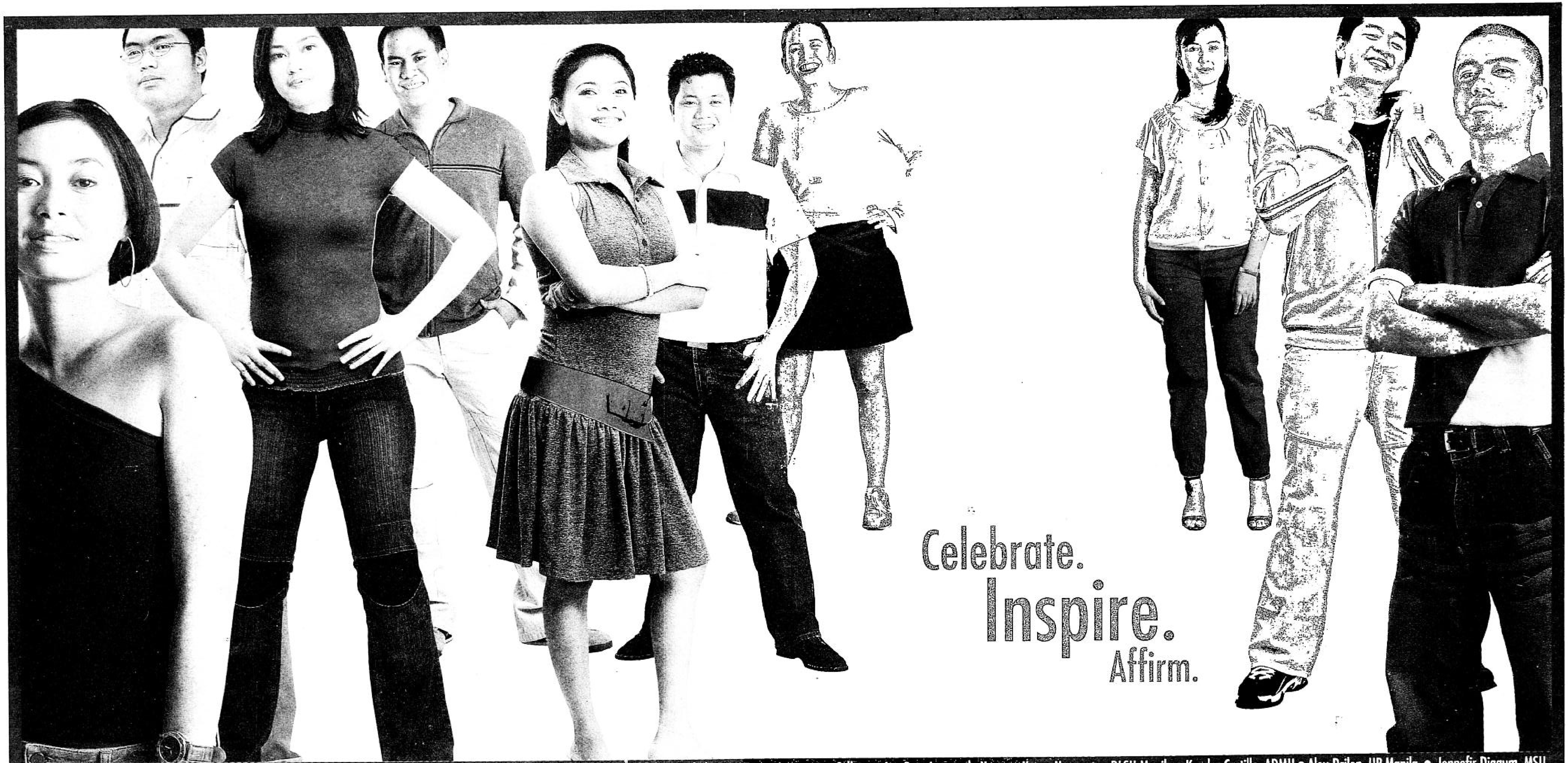

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A salute to the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines 2004.

In recognition of their academic achievements and contributions to their communities, these young men and women have earned a title that sets them apart from the crowd. But with this title comes responsibility. Without fear, they face the challenge with enthusiasm and hopeful commitment. Soon enough, they will grace front covers and be the topic of headlines for their projects in agricultural development, values education, rural healthcare, and social entrepreneurship. For this generation of future leaders, what's cool is humanitarian service and the dream to change the nation. In keeping with the dream of RFM Foundation, the TOSP Program is a yearly celebration that continually searches for young people who are destined to build our nation and uplift the lives of every Filipino.

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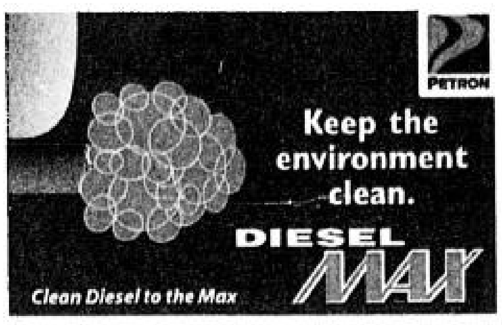
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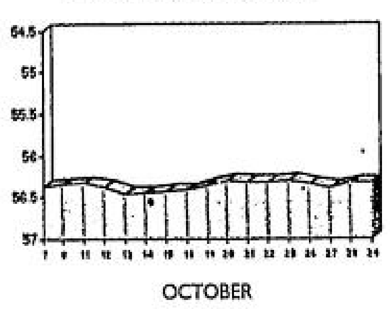

OCTOBER

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United Kingdom	Pound	1.435984	1.829300	103.0829
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100915	0.128556	7.2443
Switzerland	Franc	0.653886	0.832986	46.9396
Canada	Dollar	0.641857	0.817661	46.0760
Singapore	Dollar	0.472175	0.601504	33.8954
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Bahrain	Dinar*	2.082259	2.652590	149.4761
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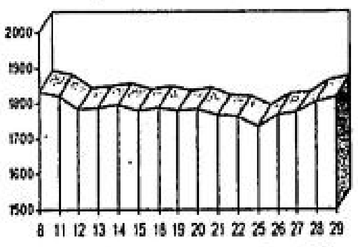
Thailand	Baht	0.019115	0.024350	1.3721
UAE	Dirham	0.213725	0.272264	15.3423
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.273900	71.7855
Argentina	Peso	0.263951	0.336247	18.9479
Brazil	Real	0.274185	0.349284	19.6825
Denmark	Kroner	0.134547	0.171400	9.6586
India	Rupee	0.017253	0.021978	1.2385
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206604	0.263193	14.8312
Mexico	New Peso	0.068129	0.086790	4.8907
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537686	0.685213	38.6124
Norway	Kroner	0.122527	0.156087	8.7957
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012901	0.016434	0.9261
South Africa	Rand	0.129132	0.164501	9.2698
Korea	Won	0.000698	0.000889	0.0501
Sweden	Kroner	0.110637	0.140940	7.9421
Syria	Pound	0.015131	0.019275	1.0862
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023454	0.029878	1.6837
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000410	0.000522	0.0294

STOCK MARKET

Stocks close higher as oil prices fall



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS closed higher for the fourth straight day yesterday, led by No. 2 lender Bank of the Philippine Islands, as investors cheered a fall in global crude prices.

Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said yesterday he expected oil prices to fall further as US crude stocks rose, good news for the Philippines which imports most of its crude requirements.

But analysts said gains were capped by mixed earnings results after second-largest phone firm Globe Telecom Inc. said late on Thursday its third-quarter profit fell 34 percent as it paid debts, spent money on marketing, and lost out to competition from rival PLDT.

The main index jumped 11.54 points or 0.64 percent to 1,819.03 points. The index is up 26 percent so far this year.

"News that oil prices continued to drop cheered players," said AB Capital analyst Jose Vistan. "But Globe Telecom was a dampener and the negative sentiment spilled over to PLDT."

Globe Telecom, 40-percent owned by Ayala Corp., fell 2.84 percent to P1,025. Its bigger rival, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which is due to announce its earnings on Nov. 4, slipped 0.4 percent to P1,405.

BPI, owned by Philippine conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore's DBS Group, rose 3.19 percent to P48.50, ahead of its earnings announcement later yesterday.

Value turnover rose to P1.15 billion from Thursday's P930.78 million, as gainers beat losers 59 to 24.

Analysts said investors were also cautious ahead of a long weekend amid rumors of destabilization moves against the government as lawmakers investigate reported massive corruption in the military.

Nov. 1 is a public holiday and analysts expect the market to move

STOCKS/ B2

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has expressed concern that domestic interest rates could further shoot up in the coming weeks due to lingering concerns on a destabilization plot against the Arroyo administration, as well as doubts on its political will to have its fiscal reform measures passed by Congress.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto yesterday said that rumors of a coup attempt was ill-timed because it could worsen the domestic interest rate scenario, which had been on an uptrend in the past weeks.

Recto added that allegations that the government adopted a watered-down version of the "sin" taxes bill amid pressures from industry players was adversely affecting efforts to keep interest rates stable.

"All of these negative talks and their frequency—such as coup plot, endemic corruption in the military and alleged watered down version of the tax measures—play a role in affecting people's sentiment," said Recto, who is concurrent chair of the Bureau of Treasury's auction committee.

Last Monday, the rates for treasury bills rose across all maturities as banks said they were factoring in the risk to be caused by sharp increases in oil prices that, in turn, could spike inflation, and the way the Arroyo administration's fiscal measures were progressing in Congress.

The rate for the 91-day treasury bill, used as a benchmark by banks in pricing their loans, rose to its 21-month high at 7.869 percent, or 9.7 basis points higher than the previous rate. The yields for the 182- and 364-day bills also rose to 8.951 percent and 9.926 percent, respectively. The latest rate for the six-month debt paper was 10.6 basis points higher than the previous rate, while the rate for the one-year paper was 2.2 basis points higher. (One percentage point is equal to 100 basis points.)

A trader earlier said the increase in the rates last Monday was largely due to rising inflation, which has breached 6 percent in the past months, but also said the slow deliberations on the fiscal measures in Congress were partly to blame.

The sin taxes bill was passed by the Lower House on Thursday, but the provisions of the approved bill were more lenient than the original proposal of the Arroyo administration's economic team. Members of the business community, the Makati Business Club in particular, warned that the bill passed by the Lower House would not send a positive signal on the government's determination to instill fiscal reforms.

The bill passed by Congress seeks a 20-percent increase in the current tax rates imposed on cigarette brands, another 3-percent hike in 2006, and a further 3-percent increase in 2007. The bill was different from the original version of the economic team, which called for a 30.1-percent increase in existing tax rates, and for the indexation of the tax rates to inflation.

Meanwhile, the lingering talks on a coup attempt were fueled by the reported unrest in the military being caused by the ongoing investigation into the alleged corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Bangko Sentral raises inflation forecast

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has jacked up its inflation forecast for 2005 to an average of 6.4 to 7 percent or above the government's fighting target of 4-5 percent, but still saw no need to resort to monetary tightening.

In a press briefing yesterday, BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the emerging inflation scenario for next year was a further escalation from the 5.4- to 5.5-percent projected average for this year, mainly due to skyrocketing oil prices.

The latest 2005 inflation forecast—based on the BSP's third-quarter inflation report—was an upward adjustment from the 5.2-5.9-percent projection made during the previous quarterly briefing.

But by 2006, pressures from current supply shocks are seen to taper off and soften inflation to 4.1 percent, or back within the 4-5 percent target.

The government's 4- to 5-percent target range has been kept as an official fighting target for 2004-2006 despite the BSP's admission that the range would be breached this year and next year.

Guinigundo explained that supply and demand pressures would peak next year, resulting in an uptrend in consumer prices.

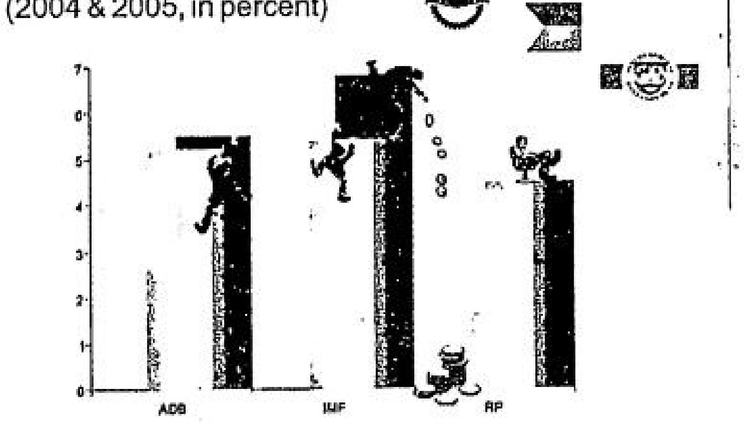
Aside from rising oil prices, he said price increases in specific food items and volatility in the peso-dollar exchange rate might contribute to inflationary pressures.

BANGKO/ B6

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

RP inflation forecasts
(2004 & 2005, in percent)



Sources: Asian Development Bank's Asian Development Outlook, International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook, the Philippines' Medium Term Development Plan

THE ASIAN Development Bank and International Monetary Fund expect the country's inflation this year to reach 5.2 and 5.4 percent, respectively. The government, however, is sticking to its 4-5 percent target despite the inflation hitting 6.9 percent last September. It is also keeping its 2005 projection of 4-5 percent even if the two international agencies see inflation averaging 6.8 and 5.5 percent in 2004 and 2005, respectively.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Review of RSBS books to start next month

By Michelle V. Remo

THE REVIEW of the actuarial and financial state of the Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will begin next month.

According to an official from the Department of Finance, the review of the cash-strapped pension fund was expected to begin in the second half of November after the DOF's Special Bids and Awards Committee has come up with a shortlist of preferred actuarial and financial consultants that will conduct the review.

The consulting firms whose technical bids passed the requirements of the bidding committee included FF Miravite Inc., Watson Wyatt Worldwide, Royal Asia Appraisal/KPMG Laya Mananghaya, and PricewaterhouseCoopers-Joaquin Cunanan & Co. The first two are actuarial firms interested in conducting the actuarial review of the RSBS, while the last two are financial consulting firms.

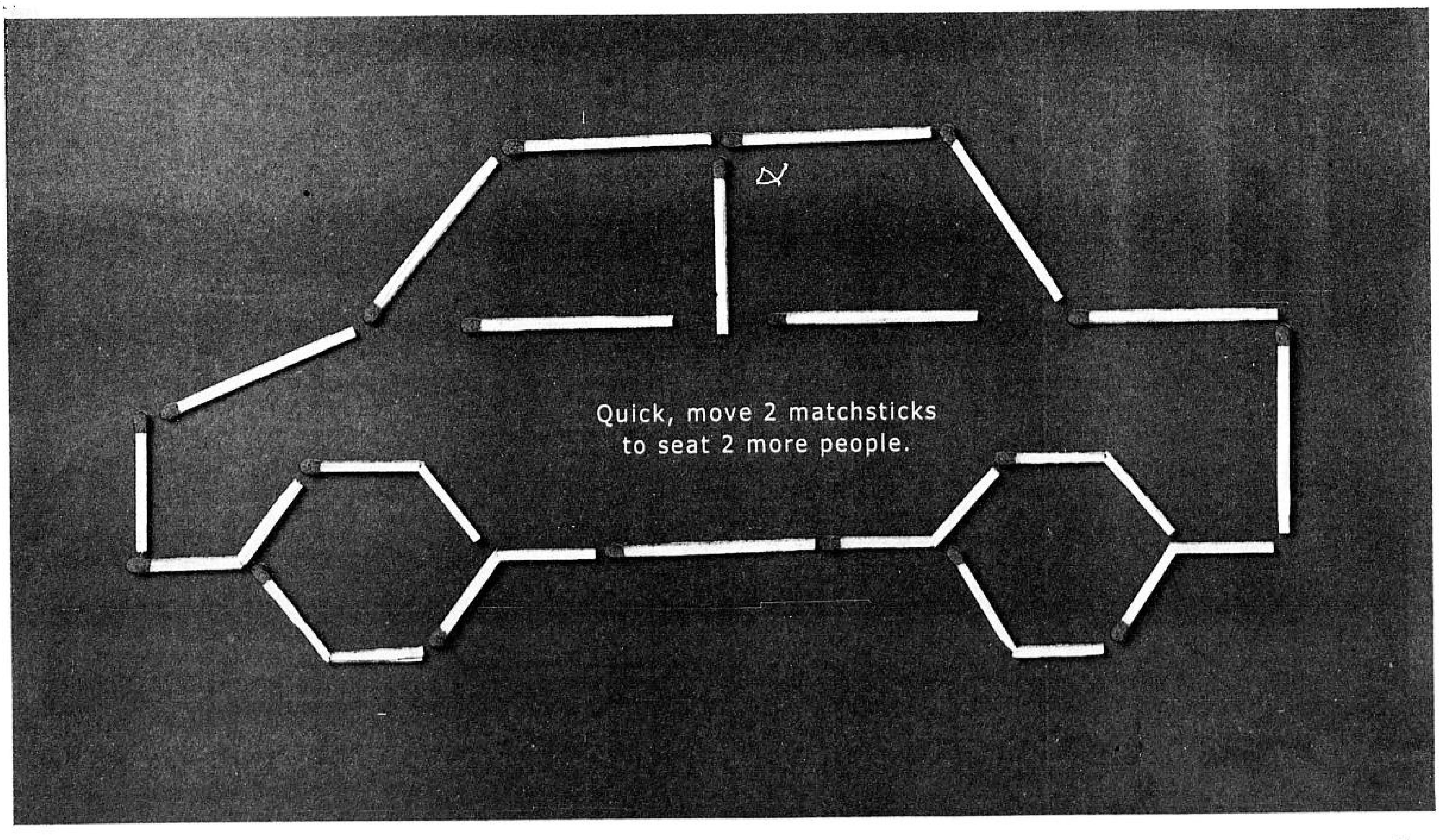
The official said the DOF would choose two winning bidders, one that will conduct a review of the actuarial state of the RSBS, and another that will conduct a review of its financial condition.

"We expect the review to begin in mid-November, and then the studies could be completed within the first half of next year," the official said.

He said the DOF would send the shortlist to the World Bank, which will provide the $200,000 grant to cover the cost of the study. The World Bank will be asked to send a "letter of no objection" to the DOF before the latter awards the contracts to the two winning bidders.

The DOF said that with the results of the study, it expected to learn ways on how to make the RSBS viable and eventually independent of funds from the nation-

REVIEW/ B2



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3RD QUARTER PROFIT DOWN

Globe sees stronger 4th quarter

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has vowed to put in a stronger performance in the current quarter when earnings should match the level of the first two quarters on expectations that huge investments in marketing and debt reduction have started to pay off.

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza said the company was also looking to pay a bigger dividend to its shareholders from last year's 50 percent as Globe realized excess cash from increased earnings.

He said a 60-percent dividend to common shareholders was "doable" given that the company would like to have a debt-equity ratio of 1:1 against a lower debt ratio at present.

Globe reported a 34-percent drop in its third-quarter earnings to P2.05 billion against P3.13 billion a year ago. Ablaza said the company spent about P600 million to prepay debts and about P1 billion to win over subscribers and keep them loyal to Globe.

As of end-September, Globe and Touch Mobile have 11.7 million subscribers, up 1.2 million from the first half.

In the first and second quarters, Globe registered profits of P3.1 billion and P3.8 billion. A strong first half allowed the company to increase nine-month profit by 19 percent to P8.96 billion against P7.5 billion a year ago.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom gave an additional 20-percent load to prepaid subscribers topping up through Autoload Max. Aside from that, Ablaza said Globe matched a 10-day price war initiated by fierce rival Smart Communications Inc.

As a result, handset subsidies to postpaid customers increased to P13,000 each during the 10-day offensive from about P9,000.

Globe chief finance officer Delfin Gonzalez said that investments in the third quarter should start paying off in the fourth quarter. "The fourth quarter is going to be stronger than the third quarter," he said.

Gonzalez said he hoped that fourth-quarter earnings would go back to the level of the first two quarters.

Ablaza said that as a result of debt prepayment in the third quarter, interest expense would drop by P100 million each month or P1.2 billion in a year.

Capital expenses for next year is tentatively set at $350 million. Out of this, Gonzalez had said that between $100 million and $150 million could be financed with new loans.

In 2005, Ablaza said capital expenditure per subscriber should go down to $50 from the current $70.

Ablaza, however, ruled out any major capital investment for Globe in any of SingTel's regional venture.

"Our role would be more in innovation and coming up with a platform of new ideas and value-added services," said Ablaza.

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NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS AND THE PUBLIC AUCTION THEREOF

Whereas, the herein described items/goods were separately imported and landed on various dates at the Port of Subic, which up to the present, no Customs Import Entry has been filed thereon respectively or if such entry has been filed, no further claim/adjudication was made thereto by respective consignee/importer or such rightful claimant within the period fixed by law, to wit:

Container No.	Type Size	Consignee	Date Entered CY	Description of Cargoes
GAEU250048-0	D40	Sacred Trading	08/02/98	used trucks & spare parts
APLU907480-0	D40	Dual 7	12/26/99	diesel engine & auto parts
APLU981479-0	D40	Dual 7	12/26/99	diesel engine & auto parts
TGHU753822-7	D40	Sagami Int'l.	07/26/00	asstd. shoes
CRXU945399-0	D40	Subic Acropolis Inc.	12/17/00	used vehicles
CRXU953127-0	D40	Subic Acropolis Inc.	12/17/00	used vehicles
TRLU539561-5	D40	Subic Acropolis Inc.	12/17/00	used vehicles
TEXU740923-7	D40	Subic Acropolis Inc.	12/20/00	used vehicles
SEAU809993-2	D40	Subic Acropolis Inc.	12/20/00	used vehicles
TTNU925026-7	D40	Bayshore Gen. Mdse.	03/07/01	used cars & parts
INKU288543-9	D40	Bayshore Gen. Mdse.	03/07/01	used cars & parts
APLU903680-5	D40	Edzen Motors	09/09/01	used vehicles & auto parts
APLU602196-4	D40	Edzen Motors	09/23/01	used vehicles & auto parts
NOSU429050-6	D40	Asialink Trading	02/17/02	used cars
ICSU185778-0	D40	Asialink Trading	02/17/02	used cars
TOLU897215-0	D40	New Wave Transport	03/30/02	used boats & used parts
TRLU923427-0	D40	New Wave Transport	03/30/02	used boats & used parts
CAXU570400-6	D40	New Wave Transport	04/06/02	used motor boats & vehicles
TOLU878169-0	D40	New Wave Transport	04/06/02	used motor boats & vehicles
APZU407011-3	D40	New Wave Transport	04/06/02	used motor boats & vehicles
SEAU870737-5	D45	Sehan Trading	07/26/02	4 units Sonata
TRIU510537-2	D40	ICP Trading	07/26/04	computer/parts
INBU521788-8	D40	ICP Trading	07/26/04	computer/parts
MSKU450293-3	D45	Daeyong Trading	08/09/02	2 units used cars
MSKU454787-7	D45	Daeyong Trading	08/09/02	2 units used cars
NOSU441544-0	D40	Kanoike Transport	08-01-03	used automobiles
GVCU500069-6	D40	G.I.P.C.	07/12/03	used utility van
TTNU902571-2	D40	G.I.P.C.	07/12/03	used utility van
NOSU429823-5	D40	Ms. Ma. Jessibel Gevana	08/04/03	used medical bed
NOSU454886-4	D40	Ms. Ma. Jessibel Gevana	08/04/03	used medical bed
NOSU442699-5	D40	Ms. Ma. Jessibel Gevana	08/24/03	used medical bed
APZU405640-8	D40	Ms. Ma. Jessibel Gevana	08/24/03	used medical bed
TRLU403305-7	D40	Ms. Ma. Jessibel Gevana	08/24/03	used medical bed
TOLU382103-8	D40	Ms. Ma. Jessibel Gevana	08/24/03	used medical bed
FSCU657437-1	D40	G.I.P.C.	08/29/03	4 units reefer truck
MSKU272941-9	D20	Sanyo Denki	10/10/03	clip
TCKU990356-0	D40	PCS Cargo Movers	10/10/03	2 units Korean Vans
APMU802946-2	D40	PCS Cargo Movers	10/24/03	2 units Korean Vans
APLU906738-1	D40	Hundred Young Subic	11/08/03	used cars & parts slot machine
MSKU828354-0	D40	Barre-Two Co., Inc.	11/21/03	3 units Hyundai Galloper
TOLU373090-9	D40	Sambendick Trading	11/23/03	2 units used cars BMW
TEXU737763-3	D40	PCS Cargo Movers	01/30/04	used vans
SEAU818791-0	D40	PCS Cargo Movers	01/30/04	used vans
MAEU726924-8	D40	PCS Cargo Movers	01/30/04	used vans
SCMU206325-1	D20	Chairman Feliciano	02/13/04	used bicycles & spare parts

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Review. . .

From page B1

al government, which is facing a fiscal problem of its own.

The DOF official earlier said the national government would still be forced to shoulder the payment of pension benefits of retired military personnel because there were no other option available right now for the RSBS to shoulder its obligation.

According to its charter, RSBS, which was established in 1980, should be independent of the national government within 20 years. This means the national government should have stopped shouldering pension payments since 2000.

The funds of RSBS suffered greatly during the 1997 Asian financial crisis because its investments were mostly in real estate, one of the industries hardest hit by the crisis.

But aside from the financial crisis, the alleged graft and corruption among RSBS officials have been blamed for the suffering of the pension fund's finances.

Stocks . . .

From page B1

sideways when it resumes trading next Tuesday, with players awaiting more earnings reports.

Southeast Asia's biggest food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp. and PLDT are expected to announce their results on Nov. 4, followed by the country's largest business group Ayala Corp. on Nov. 5.

"Should world crude prices continue their descent, momentum might continue to support barometers higher on hopes corporate earnings growth will be supported for the remaining leg this year," said stock brokerage firm 2TradeAsia.com in a client note.

"Immediate support is at 1,800, secondary at 1,790, resistance at 1,830-1,850." *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 29, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	84,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	20.5	19.25	20.5	2,786,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	48.5	46.5	48.5	2,001,900
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	45	47.5	45	47.5	524,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	250,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	28	28	155,100
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	220
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	100
Security Bank Corp.	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	339,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	23.25	22.75	23.25	22,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2520	2530	2520	2530	1,630
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	167,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	114	114	114	114	1,100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1665	1670	1660	1670	2,560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21	21	21	14,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.32	1.34	5,106,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1040	1040	1015	1025	88,500
Ipeople Inc.	1.7	1.76	1.7	1.76	479,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.047	0.041	0.047	6,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	110,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.6	5,180,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.37	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1420	1430	1400	1405	262,630
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.73	3,690,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	19,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	11,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.5	24	24.5	913,100
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.15	4,044,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	30,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	122,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.4	1,970,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	597,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	180,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.4	2.46	2.38	2.44	6,573,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30	31	30	31	656,300
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	900,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	165,300
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	72.5	71.5	72.5	206,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	280,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	82,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	4,966,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	782,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	48,000
APC Group Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	963,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15	15	15	15	2,500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	4,200,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.15	0.16	2,470,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.235	1,140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.75	3.4	3.7	9,108,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	15,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27.5	26.5	27.5	605,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.68	1.68	202,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	420,000
Keppel Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
Keppel Holdings B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	740,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	27,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,567,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	23,840,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	70,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.205	0.225	0.195	0.215	22,260,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	5,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.5	0.32	0.5	80,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.62	1.62	112,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.9	0.97	0.9	0.97	150,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.65	0.68	0.64	0.68	10,690,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	12	12	12	12	260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.78	0.75	0.76	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.35	0.36	14,340,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	638,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.5	68,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.3	14,517,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	400,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	7,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,080,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	9,140,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.145	750,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	5,750,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.12	10,678,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.26	120,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	4,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.53	2,730,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.07	0.1	0.07	0.1	400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	67,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.25	0.33	0.245	0.33	29,350,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	401,000
San Miguel Prop. Inc.	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	500
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.5	2,819,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	250,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.012	0.01	0.012	1,084,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.6	3.75	3.6	3.6	285,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	400,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.018	0.016	0.018	459,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	221,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	91,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	1,830,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	3,310,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	28,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	320,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	190,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	59,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	500,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	6,935,410	225,579,545.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,208,532,530	737,668,030.00
PRO	78,293,500	155,568,750.00
Mining	1,864,975,000	29,426,950.00
OIL	50,069,000	681,950.00
GRAND TOTALS:	3,208,805,440	1,148,925,225.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	517.75	UP 15.56
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,839.79	UP 0.30
PRO	680.52	UP 5.48
Mining	2,153.69	UP 98.91
OIL	1.73	UP 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,134.11	UP 10.10
Composite	1,819.03	UP 11.54

NO. OF ADVANCES: 59, NO. OF DECLINES: 24, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 126, NO. OF TRADES: 3,965

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom Inc. confirmed that the company is committed to increase the public float to 30 percent from the current 20 percent but this is a medium term goal and not in the near term. There are no specific plans at present to increase the public float.

* * *

ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 19, 2 p.m. at Hotel InterContinental Manila, Ayala Ave., Makati. Record date is set on Nov. 4.

* * *

THE BOARD of directors of **MIC Holdings Corp.** elected Arturo Hilado as director of the company and Karla Lumen Homena as corporate secretary effective Nov. 1.

* * *

ROXAS Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 24, 10 a.m. at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City. Record date is set on Oct. 15 for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 18, 10 a.m. at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City. Only common stockholders as of Oct. 28 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty & Holdings Corp. disclosed that they were unaware of any information relating to the unusual movement of their share price which increased by 50 percent to P0.33 per share.

* * *

SUN Life Financial Inc. declared a quarterly cash dividend of Cdn$0.22 per share on the common shares of the corporation payable on Dec. 31 to shareholders of record at the close of business on Nov. 24. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

House may transfer part of ₱9-B DAR fund to agri department

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE HOUSE of Representatives is considering transferring part of the Agrarian Reform department's P9-billion fund to the Department of Agriculture to augment funds under the proposed 2005 budget.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon (NPC) said the House of Representatives might augment the 2005 proposed budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA) by acquiring funds from other government agencies.

Macarambon said they were also looking at transferring part of the P9-billion Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF) of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to boost the P226-million DAR allocation to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

The lawmakers believe the NIA allocation is inadequate.

Macarambon, who chairs the House committee on agriculture, said he already had extended this proposal to the House committee on appropriations chair Rolando Andaya (LP, Camarines Sur).

"Under the proposed 2005 DA budget, the NIA's locally funded and foreign assisted projects are allotted P4.2 billion," said Macarambon during the committee hearing of the DA budget late Wednesday. "(The fund) needs counterpart funding from the national government."

However, Macarambon said that such an arrangement would need to be ironed out because the bulk of the ARF fund came from foreign assisted projects.

The DA initially submitted a budget of P25 billion to the Department of Budget and Management.

However the DA lowered the figure to P14.5 billion following negotiations with the DBM.

Some P2.67 billion of the 2005 budget is allocated for the Office of the agriculture secretary; P1.8 billion to fund local DA projects; P4.2 billion as counterpart funding to foreign-assisted DA projects; P974 million to the DA bureaus; P1.4 billion to its regional field units and P1.8 billion to DA attached agencies.

There is also the subsidy to attached corporations amounting to P1.6 billion.

Members of Congress have expressed disappointment at the level of government support to the DA, which was not commensurate to the department's contributions to the economy.

"We will continue to scrutinize the DA budget to further attune it to the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, which is currently being finalized," said Macarambon.

He noted that the current fiscal difficulties have made the DA more focused and more targeted.

The department is now tapping other resource flows outside of the General Appropriations Act, such as the expanding internal revenue allotments of the local government units, Macarambon added.

Globe unit up for relaunch after sluggish performance

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE SLUGGISH performance of Touch Mobile has prompted Globe Telecom Inc. to reassess the position of its unit in the market and prime it for a relaunch before year end or in early 2005.

Touch Mobile is the brand that Globe's subsidiary Innove Communications Inc. had positioned to pierce the lower segment of the wireless market.

But the brand had not delivered substantial results, ending the third quarter with only 1.6 million subscribers or up only 350,000 against 1.25 million the previous year.

In contrast, Talk 'N Text of Pilipino Telephone Corp. counted 3.55 million subscribers as of end-June from 2.22 million a year ago. Piltel would announce the third quarter results next week.

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza said the company wanted to strengthen the Touch Mobile brand so it could play a bigger role in the company's bid to penetrate the mass market.

Innove president Gil Genio said the company was currently evaluating Touch Mobile's market positioning.

"We want to know where Touch Mobile fits, now that even Globe's brand is being used for the mass market," Genio explained. "We want to revisit the original proposition of Touch Mobile before it was treated just like any mobile brand. Over time, the picture for Touch Mobile was blurred."

Globe and Innove hopes to resolve Touch Mobile's identity crisis before year end.

Asked whether the brand would be relaunched before the end of 2004, Genio was non-committal.

"We want to complete the picture before Christmas," said Genio. "But if not, we will do it early next year."

He did not rule out the possibility that, based on ongoing studies, Touch Mobile might turn out to be no longer necessary to the company.

He said if that happened, Globe would not be affected that much because, after all, Touch Mobile was just using the network of the parent firm.

The average monthly churn rate or the percentage of Touch Mobile subscribers who had disconnected stood at 13.4 percent from January to September this year, up by 6.9 percent against the same period last year.

The high percentage of Touch Mobile churn was due to the delayed launch of the over-the-air reloading service as well as the SIM swap offered by the competitor, according to Globe.

The same thing happened to Globe last year and was reflected in its books during the first quarter.

Average revenue per unit or Arpu for Touch Mobile for the first nine months stood at P181, down from P223 a year ago, although acquisition cost per subscriber also dropped 15 percent at P158 from P186 last year.

Yap proposes online system for DA deals

DAVAO CITY—Agriculture Sec. Arthur Yap proposed the adoption of an on-line system for all transactions in the agency.

During a visit here on Oct. 22, Yap said the system would ensure efficiency and would also promote greater transparency, thereby avoiding suspicions about irregularity in the agency's transactions.

He said the proposed on-line system is an innovative approach that could be used, particularly in the DA's procurement process.

Yap said to avoid charges of irregularity in future DA transactions, the agency should immediately adopt the system.

Yap was accused of irregularities during his stint with the National Food Authority.

Marlene Esperat, a former action officer of the DA in Mindanao, charged Yap with fund anomaly involving some P432 million.

Esperat said Yap, who was then NFA chief, authorized the release of the funds for the procurement of fertilizers even if it was not among the agency's mandate.

"The funds of the NFA is mainly for the purpose of buying and selling grains and other food products," she said. "The fact that the NFA had to use its funds for other purposes such as the purchase of fertilizer is a clear case of juggling/illegal transfer of funds."

Esperat said her complaint had been verified and that she has evidence to support it.

Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Service sector cites power subsidy phase-out

LEADERS of the country's major service companies recently lauded the recent decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to phase out the inter-class subsidy given by large commercial and industrial power consumers to the residential customers of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco).

Various business executives said the subsidy phase-out will result in more competitive power rates in the country, and "will enable the service sector to channel financial resources to the improvement of services and commercial facilities and to the possible creation of more jobs."

Philippine Hotel Federation treasurer Costas Vafopoulos said the subsidy phase-out "could be a big boost to the bottomline of the hospitality industry, since power is a major cost item in the operation of our hotels."

He said an improved financial position for the sector would, in turn, help it compete better in the regional tourism and business travel markets.

Ayala Land president Jaime Ayala underscored the positive impact of lower power rates on the expansion of commercial operations and the possible generation of more jobs. By correcting the power rate situation, businesses such as malls, cinemas and restaurants can now afford to hire more employment, Ayala said.

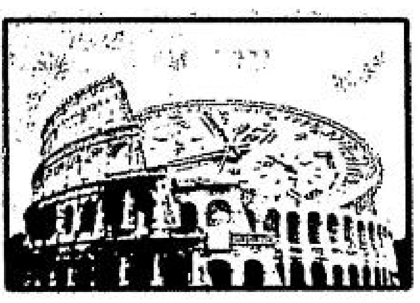
Ernest Cu, CEO of listed SPI Technologies, said the subsidy phase-out "is a major boost to the BPO industry."

Lower power rates would help the sector remain competitive especially at this time when other Asian countries are trying to grab a bigger share of outsourced business from the United States and Europe.

Also, the Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines Foundation Inc. (CCPFI) welcomed the subsidy phase-out, citing the effect of the move "on the effort to create a positive business atmosphere in the country."

CCPFI president Francis Chua said they had urged the ERC to move on the issue a long time ago. He said the subsidy was a negative factor as far as business growth was concerned.

Reflecting Time
Colosseum



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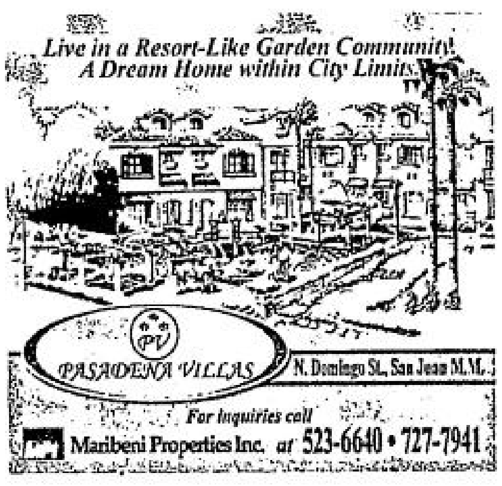

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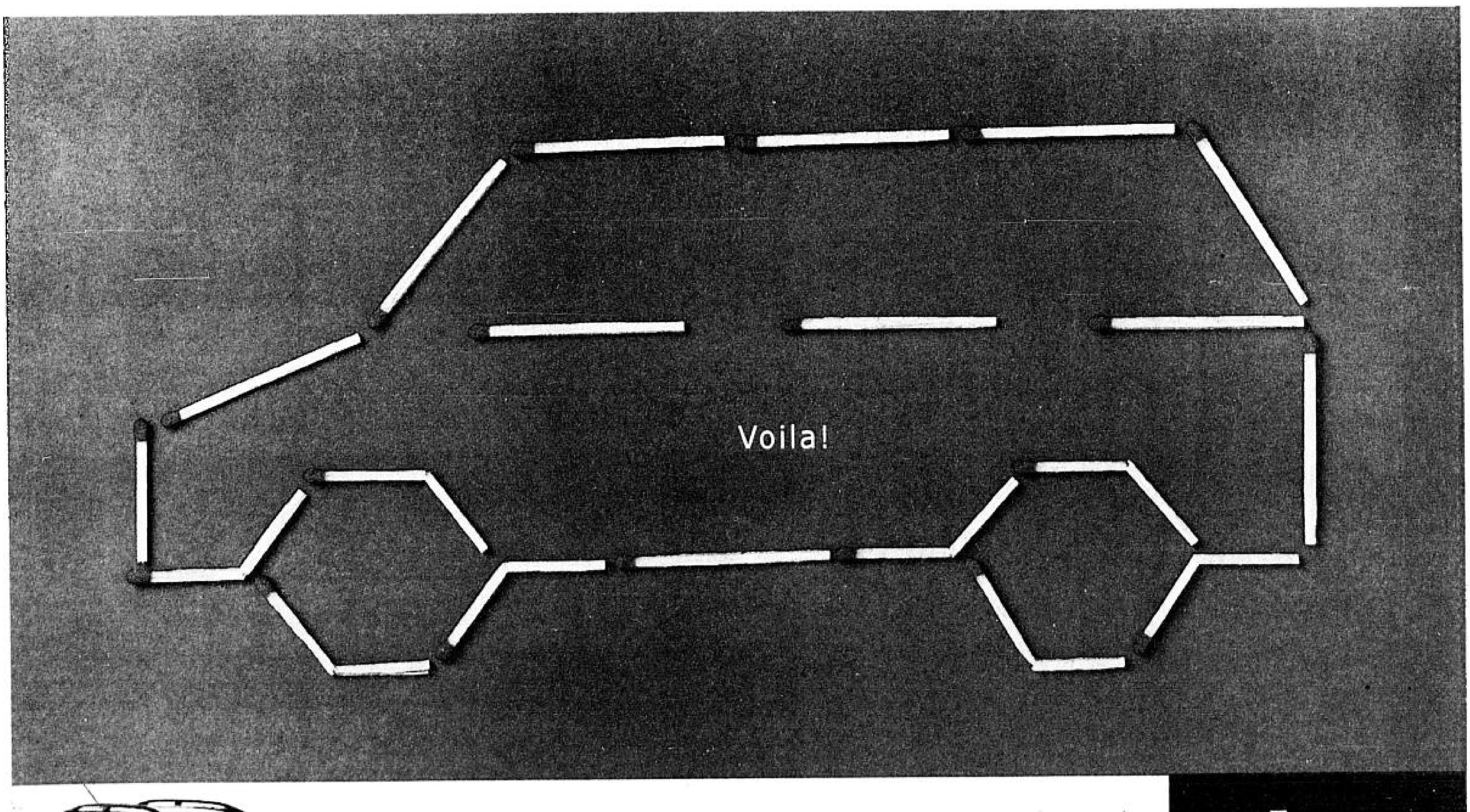

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P9/mo 100stall 7857817

P. Gil Nr Sta Ana Church Highly Comm Xcelent Loc w/Parkng 6336095 6336167

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 38/57/62/148/185m² 8903461 loc. 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

BAGUIO
VACATION APTS.
P3,500-2BR; P4,500 -- 3BR
Spacious Garden, Cooking
Facilities 8522466 / 8322112
0918-9403711 0918-9395629

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

240 sqm Sagittarius Mkt Lease or Sale T-6310279

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

354 Aguirre BF Sucat
Call 09209602511 9274236

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MAZDA

'97 MAZDA GLI 1st own makinis low milleage all orig • 8937254 / 09189146369 •

MITSUBISHI

GLXI 95" GOOD CONDITION SPORTY LOOK Flooded 2727813

VAN/PICK-UP

HGRCE Van '02 DSL 179 Neg Mags 5895691 09208119384

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Trooper Safari Rvr Serena Space Gear Terrano Canter Elf etc Financing T-In ok 9120647; 09178342020 Glenn

VOLVO

VOLVO 95 Model 420K GLE Mobile Van Clinic 96 Mod. 1.5M 8120561 loc. 102 Noel

SPECIAL CARS

AUDI A4 1.8 Turbo Mod '02 Mil 25000 km Call Remy @ 9111883 to 84 ; 9126702

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

BKHOE kobelco 3639012 Ed

LOWBED 70Ton 09277902546

UTILITY VEHICLE/HVY EQUIP/ TRANSPORT

FOR SALE 50 TON TELESCOPIC CRANE P3.1M 40 TON TELESCOPIC CRANE P2.4M 80 TON CRAWLER LATTICE P3.2M Contact no. 0917-7962242

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

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YOKOHAMA GOODYEAR BRIDGESTONE MOTOLITE ORIENTAL Mobil Lubricants
CREDIT CARDS HONORED!
FREE AFTER-SALES SERVICE!
RUBBER VOLT
36 West Av QC 3716783
115 Mind. Av QC 9291514

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD-2004-14

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 25, 2004; 9:00 AM			
14A1	MOTOR, SQUIRREL CAGE INDUCTION, "ABB" OR EQUIV., TYPE M2BA315SMC4 MOTOR, SQUIRREL CAGE INDUCTION, "ABB" OR EQUIV., TYPE M2CA315LA-4 (PB2)	1MCF-04-406 (JP) 1MCF-04-407 (JP)	P 798,000.00 P 1,012,000.00
14A2	POWER & CABLE REEL GEAR BOX	1MCF-04-443 (LS)	P 1,300,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 25, 2004; 2:00 PM			
14B1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS/CONSUMABLES, TOOLS, EQUIPT & DETAILED ENG'G FOR THE INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING SYSTEM FOR CYLINDER EXHAUST GAS TEMP., TURBO CHARGER, INLET TEMP., CRANKCASE PRESSURE, MAIN ENGINE PRESSURE PARAMETERS, LUBRICATOR CYLINDER PRESSURE & FUEL CONSUMPTION (PB2)	PB3-04-175 (ZC)	P 5,000,000.00
14B2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS/CONSUMABLES, TOOLS, EQUIPT & DETAILED ENG'G. FOR THE INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PC BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM OF PB 101 UNITS 1-4 FOR EXHAUST GAS TEMP. MONITORING & OTHER VITAL PARAMETERS (PB2)	PB1-04-109 (NY)	P 5,000,000.00
14B3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS/CONSUMABLES, TOOLS, EQUIPT & DETAILED ENG'G. FOR THE INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PC BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM FOR MGE'S 1-4 EXHAUST GAS & RESISTANCE BULB MONITORING SYSTEM (PB2)	PB4-04-238 (ZC)	P 5,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 26, 2004; 9:00 AM			
14C1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPT FOR THE REFURBISHMENT & RECONDITIONING OF ONE (1) UNIT HOTWELL PUMP VOLUTE CASING	5LGP-04-316 (LS)	P 10,000,000.00
14C2	JOINT, FLEXIBLE, RUBBER, HEAVY DUTY (PB2)	5PGP1-04-149 (LS)	P 1,320,352.00
14C3	BATTERY, STATIONARY, VALVE REGULATED LEAD ACID	5PGP2-04-054 (LS)	P 11,450,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 26, 2004; 2:00 PM			
14D1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR REHAB/INSTALLATION/COMMISSIONING OF PLANT D&E PAGING SYSTEM AND COMPLEX INTERCONNECTION	3MGT-04-302 (ZC)	P 2,933,576.45
14D2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS IN THE INSTALLATION OF COOLING TOWER LEVEL SENSOR & INDICATOR (PB2)	3TGP-04-021 (RP)	P 2,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 1, 2004; 9:00 AM			
14E1	J.O.-BACK FILLING & SLOPE PROTECTION WORKS ALONG THE ILIJAN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE ROUTE	OGRF-04-039 (ZC)	P 1,073,646.53
14E2	ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER	OEMD-04-051 (ZC)	P 2,300,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

14A1 – 14A2	Nov. 11, 2004; 9:00 AM	14D1 – 14D2	Nov. 12, 2004; 2:00 PM
14B1 – 14B3	Nov. 11, 2004; 2:00 AM	14E1 – 14E2	Nov. 16, 2004; 4:00 PM
14C1 – 14C3	Nov. 12, 2004; 9:00 AM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 500.00 per schedule starting on November 5, 2004. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by other NPC Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the gorunds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI – Oct. 30, 2004)

Supreme Court of the Philippines
MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites authorized Distributors/dealers of branded Personal Computers to pre-qualify and participate in the lot bidding for the following:

A. 731 units – Personal Computers
B. 54 units – Laser Printers
C. 818 units – Dot matrix printers (Narrow carriage 80 columns)
D. 20 units – Wide carriage 136 columns
E. 731 units – AVR, 500 watts

For distribution and delivery to:

Court	PC	Laser Printer	Dot Matrix (80 columns)	Dot Matrix (136 columns)	AVR (500 watts)
Supreme Court	90	54	65	20	90
Lower Courts	641	–	753	–	641
Total	731	54	818	20	731

The approved budget is FORTY FIVE MILLION PESOS (P45,000,000.00) to be charged against the Judiciary Development Fund.

The winning bidders shall deliver the required equipment within sixty (60) working days upon receipt of Purchase Order (P.O.).

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or to any members of the Committee on Bids or COB Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents including the list of recipient Courts and their locations from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, 4th Floor, Multi-purpose Bldg., Property Division, Supreme Court, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)**. For additional information, contact the Secretary, **Atty. Ennar RC Cabanilla** at telefax no. 5251270 or **Norma Josue** at telefax no. 5247425.

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The Pre-bid Conference will be held on 10 November 2004 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on 17 November 2004 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Bids of eligible bidders will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives on 24 November 2004 at 2:00 p.m., Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bids/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

October 21, 2004.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – October 23 & 30, 2004)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Benz Jaguar Lincoln 6825922

CARS VANS 5314082 • 5784076

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

CARS VANS 4X4 COSTR BUS AUTOMATIC/MANUAL TRANS 8908667 8908668 8908669

•L300 VAN TRevo 9139185•

NISSAN URVAN
NEW 0917-5444721

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6580140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870400/95

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

BUY/SELL

CAP/PRUD PLANS Gie 0917-7939632

CONSTRUNCTION MATERIAL

RUSH SALE B-NEW G.E. CIRCUIT BREAKER 1,200AMPH P45T 842-5188

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

OTHER EQUIPMENT

BOILER, FULL AUTOMATIC
SLIGHTLY USED CAP 800KG
P300T 3619953 3646696

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

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5633742 0917-8473744

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice Is Hereby Given That The Estate Of The Late Zacarias C. Hilliado who died on December 29,1998 at Makati Medical Center,Makati City Had Been Settled By His Heirs In Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate With Sale. Subscribed and Acknowledged before Atty. Perfecto L. Dimayuga Notary Public for and in the City of Makati per Doc. No. 406; Page No. 83 Book No. L1; Series of 2004.(PDI-Oct.16,23,30,2004)

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION
NOV. 8, 2004
All unredeemed article from
June 1 - 30, 2004
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
•Pinalubo St. Mand 10AM
•Liberlad St. Mand 11AM
•Dela Rosa Makati 1PM
V. ZAMORA - Auctioneer

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop - Makati City Auction Sale on November 06, 2004 all unredeemed pledges during the month of June 1-30, 2004 . Nuestra Br. II 9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Nuestra Br. IX - 3:00pm. Sons of J. Lanuza - Auctioneer.
(PDI-October 30, 2004)

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA - Will have its auction sale on November 6, 2004. All unredeemed pledges during the month of June 1-30. 2004. Diajade Br. II-11:30am.- Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer.
(PDI - October 30, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice Is hereby given that the estate of ISIDRO MONTES was self-adjudicated to heir before Notary Public Juan C. Siapno, Jr. of San Fabian, Pangasinan per Doc. No. 11, Page No. 3, Book No. V, Series of 2004.
(PDI-Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Alfredo Joson Adjudicated by his surviving heir Gloria Joson with Doc# 168, Page# 098, Book#09 Series of 2004 before Notary Public Rodrigo Corpuz of Las Piñas City PDI-Oct 23, 30 Nov. 6, 2004

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Recognition ID issued to RYUICHI YOZA was lost on Sept. 18, 2004.
PDI-October 30, 2004

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

1Hec Ricemill w/Wrhse O. Mindoro P2.0M Nego M-F Welcome Brokers/Agents Ok 650-8659/60, 697-4430/0838

32 PROVEN & MEASURED BENEFITS OF NEW MANGOSTEEN JUICE. MEMBERS NEEDED. 09195531353 //takemeto.biz/gotime

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PNB

PUBLIC AUCTION
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL PROPERTIES

NOVEMBER 11, 2004 • THURSDAY • 2:00 p.m
BUSINESS INN • Hall A •
No. 28 South Lacson St., Bacolod City

BACOLOD CITY

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 977 sqm
Floor Area: 387 sqm
Lot 73, No. 3 Lizares Avenue,
Minimum Bid Price: 4,631,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 976 sqm
Floor Area: 400 sqm
Lot 71, Lizares Avenue
Minimum Bid Price: 4,006,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 600 sqm
Floor Area: 150 sqm
Lot 16 & 17, Blk 1, St Luke St., Dona Justiana Heights Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: 953,000.00

Greensville Subdivision

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Lot 1-A, St. Francis St.
Minimum Bid Price: 975,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Lot 1-B, St. Francis St.
Minimum Bid Price: 975,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area
Lot 12-B **SOLD** de Porres St.
Minimum Bid Price:

Sharina Heights Subdivision
Pleasantville Ave.

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 298 sqm
Floor Area: 40 sqm
Lot 3, Blk 15, San Bartolome St.
Minimum Bid Price: 481,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 270 sqm
Lot 4, Blk 15, San Bartolome St.
Minimum Bid Price: 424,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 414 sqm
Lot 5, Blk 15, San Bartolome St.
Minimum Bid Price: 248,000.00

BRGY. 1

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 450 sqm
Floor Area: 150 sqm
Lot 260, 27Th Street, Capitol Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,844,000.00

BRGY. 4

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 720 sqm
Floor Area: 1334 sqm
Lots 406-B-26 & 406-B-29, 13Th St.
Minimum Bid Price: 6,093,000.00

BRGY. 10

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 736 sqm
Lot 369-A, Burgos St.
Minimum Bid Price: 4,968,000.00

BRGY. 17

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 226 sqm
Floor Area: 62 sqm
Lot 1 1St St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,015,000.00

BRGY. BANAGO

LOT 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,203 sqm
L24, B50, Sta. Clara Subd (West)
Minimum Bid Price: 2,076,000.00

BRGY. BANAGO
Sta. Clara Subdivision

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,628 sqm
Lot 1-B, Blk 1
Minimum Bid Price: 4,884,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,243 sqm
Lot 2, Blk 1
Minimum Bid Price: 6,729,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,937 sqm
Lot 3, Blk 6
Minimum Bid Price: 5,811,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 4, Blk 26
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,479 sqm
Lot 4, Blk 2
Minimum Bid Price: 5,578,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,329 sqm
Lot 5, Blk 2
Minimum Bid Price: 5,241,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 933 sqm
Lot 5, Blk 8
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 6, Blk 26
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 760 sqm
Lot 6, Blk 14
Minimum Bid Price: 1,486,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,107 sqm
Lot 7, Blk 39
Minimum Bid Price: 2,491,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 8, Blk 26 (West)
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 760 sqm
Lot 8, Blk 14 (West)
Minimum Bid Price: 1,486,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,845 sqm
Lot 13, Blk 4
Minimum Bid Price: 4,152,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 308 **SOLD**
Lot 14, Blk 24
Minimum Bid Price:

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 760 sqm
Lot 14, Blk 14
Minimum Bid Price: 1,486,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 760 sqm
Lot 16, Blk 14
Minimum Bid Price: 1,486,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 10, Blk 26
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 933 sqm
Lot 11, Blk 8
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 12, Blk 26
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 14, Blk 26
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 15, Blk 26
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 16, Blk 26
Minimum Bid Price: 525,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 933 sqm
Lot 13, Blk 8, Phase I
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 851 sqm
Lot 16, Blk 8 Phase I
Minimum Bid Price: 1,915,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 938 sqm
Lot 17, Blk 8
Minimum Bid Price: 2,111,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,169 sqm
Lot 11, Blk 39Phase I
Minimum Bid Price: 2,631,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 75 **SOLD**
Lot 12, Blk
Minimum Bid Price:

LOT 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,527 sqm
Lot 19, Blk 50
Minimum Bid Price: 3,436,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,733 sqm
Lot 20, Blk 50
Minimum Bid Price: 3,900,000.00

BRGY. BATA

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Lot 16 Blk 15 Circumferential Road.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,530,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 700 sqm
Floor Area: 243 sqm
Lot 1, Blk 6, Circumferential Rd.
Purok Pepsi
Minimum Bid Price: 2,914,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 225 sqm
Lot 15-A, Blk 24, Purok Mahimayaon
Minimum Bid Price: 173,000.00

BRGY. CABUG

LOT 47 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot1 1Blk3 Lilong Villarosa Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 36,000.00

BRGY. ESTEFANIA
Fortune Town Subdivision

LOT 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 5, Blk 2
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 5, Blk 4
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area **SOLD**
Lot 6, B
Minimum Bid Price:

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 6, Blk 4
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 7, Blk 4
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 8, Blk 4
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 13, Blk 6
Minimum Bid Price: 113,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 14, Blk 6
Minimum Bid Price: 113,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 21, Blk 6
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 31, Blk 4
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

Villa Soledad Subdivision

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 300 sqm
Floor Area: 60 sqm
Lot 10 Blk 12; Pine Tree
Minimum Bid Price: 416,000.00

BRGY. GRANADA

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 6,233 sqm
Lot 1131, Rivera-Cuadra Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,466,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 447 sqm
Floor Area: 110 sqm
Lot 23 Blk 1, Corner Gumamela-Lirio Sts. Patricia Homes
Minimum Bid Price: 665,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,621 sqm
Lot 1190, Montelibano-Clocon Sts. Purok 5
Minimum Bid Price: 707,000.00

BRGY. MANDALAGAN

LOT 62 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,462 sqm
Lot 6, Blk 3, Cordova Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,645,000.00

Villa Valderama Subdivision

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,038 sqm
Lot 37, Blk 5, Amelia & Paquita Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,254,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,065 sqm
Lot 38, Blk 5, Amelia & Paquita Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,340,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,039 sqm
Lot 39, Blk 5, Amelia & Paquita Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,258,000.00

BRGY. MANSILINGAN

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 270 sqm
Floor Area: 36 sqm
Lot 13, Blk 12, Begonia St.
Minimum Bid Price: 280,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 340 sqm
Lot 1065-C-3, Purok Maghilugyon (Interior Portion Of P&Nb Subd)
Minimum Bid Price: 111,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 8, Blk 27, Acot St.
Minimum Bid Price: 274,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Floor Area: 70 sqm
Lot 14, Block 7, C. Jayme Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 418,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Floor Area: 100 sqm
Lot 13 Block 7, C. Jayme Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 361,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 350 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 11Benares Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 88,000.00

Jundos Subdivision

LOT 72 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 371 sqm
Lot 7, Blk 2
Minimum Bid Price: 49,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 516 sqm
Lot 17, Blk 8
Minimum Bid Price: 78,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 452 sqm
Lot 18, Blk 8
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00

Hermilinda Homes

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm
Lot 19 Blk29, 7Th Road
Minimum Bid Price: 108,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm
Lot 25 Blk29, 7Th Road
Minimum Bid Price: 108,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm
Lot 23 Blk29, 7Th Road
Minimum Bid Price: 108,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm
Lot 21 Blk29, 7Th Road
Minimum Bid Price: 108,000.00

BRGY. MONTEVISTA

LOT 79 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 342.2 sqm
Floor Area: 125 sqm
Lot 6 Blk 7, Canary-Stork Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,265,000.00

BRGY. SINGCANG

LOT 80 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Floor Area: 156 sqm
Lot 24, Blk 4, Pearl St.
Villa Servando Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 826,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 213 sqm
Lot 33 Begonia St., Kahirup Village
Minimum Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 600 sqm
L8 & 10, B 8, Purok Sampaguita III
Minimum Bid Price: 153,000.00

BRGY. SUM-AG

LOT 83 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,310 sqm
Lot 610, San Roque St.
Minimum Bid Price: 669,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 360 sqm
Floor Area: 76 sqm
Lot 589-K-2
Minimum Bid Price: 395,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 8,394 sqm
Lot 663, Purok Kaingin, Punta-Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: 1,512,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 957 sqm
Floor Area: 520 sqm
Lot 699-B, San Juan St.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,743,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,028 sqm
L# 745, Cor. Rosario & Villarosa Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 822,000.00

BRGY. TACULING

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 500 sqm
Floor Area: 160 sqm
Lot 7, Block 1, P.Hernaez St., (Libertad Extn), Royal Palm Subd
Minimum Bid Price: 1,052,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 438 sqm
Floor Area: 195 sqm
Lot 14, Blk 16, Gonzaga St., Extension, Dona Juliana Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: 1,152,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 753 sqm
Lot 6 Blk 7, Libertad Ext.
Minimum Bid Price: 453,000.00

Doña Juliana Heights

LOT 91 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 288 sqm
Lot 3-N Block 14, Marguerette Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 199,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 276 sqm
Lot 15 Blk 15
Minimum Bid Price: 195,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 323 sqm
Lot 17 Blk 15
Minimum Bid Price: 55,000.00

BRGY. TANGUB
Ramylu Village

LOT 94 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Floor Area: 70 sqm
Lot 6, Blk 16, Brgy. Rd
Minimum Bid Price: 267,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 301 sqm
Lot 16, Blk 14
Minimum Bid Price: 129,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 300 sqm
Floor Area: 100 sqm
Lot 1, Blk 5
Minimum Bid Price: 418,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Floor Area: 90 sqm
Lot 19, Blk 13
Minimum Bid Price: 285,000.00

St. Vincent Village

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 755 sqm
Lot 453-B-3
Minimum Bid Price: 7,248,000.00

Luisa Village

LOT 99 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 266 sqm
Lot 30 Blk 2
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 228 sqm
Lot 32 Blk 2
Minimum Bid Price: 59,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 228 sqm
Lot 34 Blk 2
Minimum Bid Price: 59,000.00

Jopanda Subdivision

LOT 102 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 42,241 sqm
846-B-2 (Interior Portion)
Minimum Bid Price: 5,703,000.00

BRGY. VILLAMONTE

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 459 sqm
Floor Area: 238 sqm
Lot 25 Blk 10 Guijo St.
Capitol Heights II
Minimum Bid Price: 992,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 1,448 sqm
Floor Area: 620 sqm
Lot 3, Blk 32, No. 553, Camagong St.
Minimum Bid Price: 5,013,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 786 sqm
Lot 6 Blk 5 Anahaw St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,003,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 585 sqm
Lot7 Blk 5 & Lot 6 Anahaw St.
Minimum Bid Price: 746,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 684 sqm
Lot8 Blk 5 & Lot 7 Anahaw St.
Minimum Bid Price: 847,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 708 sqm
Floor Area: 228 sqm
L24, B20, 2429 Kamunsil St,
La Salle Dist.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,114,000.00

BAGO CITY

LOT 109 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 725 sqm
Lot 216-A—5-H, Purok Balinghoy,Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 218,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Lot 216-A—5-A, Purok Balinghoy Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 340,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm
Floor Area: 900 sqm
Lot 14-A, Bago-Ma-Ao Road (Provincial Road), Brgy. Lag-Asan
Minimum Bid Price: 4,518,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 30,257 sqm
Lot 1175 Luzuriaga St.
Purok Kaingin Brgy Taloc
Minimum Bid Price: 681,000.00

CADIZ CITY

LOT 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 251 sqm
Lot 13, Blk 28, Andrea Village, Brgy. Zone II, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 75,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 110,790 sqm
Lot 85, Sitio Maayo, Brgy. Magsaysay
Minimum Bid Price: 665,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 683 sqm
Lots 280-B-6 & 280-B-7, Purok Kabulakan, Brgy Daga
Minimum Bid Price: 147,000.00

CANLAON CITY

LOT 116 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 1,010 sqm
Floor Area: 112 sqm
Lot 2-J-2-A-10-F, & Lot 2-J-2-A-10-C, Samaca Village
Minimum Bid Price: 596,000.00

ESCALANTE CITY

LOT 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 27,942 sqm
Lots 3936, 3816, & 3888
Brgy. Proper Dian-Ay
Minimum Bid Price: 336,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 60,277 sqm
Lot 932, Bo. Tamlang
Minimum Bid Price: 422,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 491 sqm
Floor Area: 40 sqm
Lot 262-G, Danao Port Old Escalante
Minimum Bid Price: 339,000.00

HIMAMAYLAN CITY

Lot Area: 963 sqm
Floor Area: 140 sqm
Lot 640-B-3, Brgy. Aguisan
Minimum Bid Price: 845,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 7,115 sqm
Lot-649-D, Brgy. Aguisan
Minimum Bid Price: 267,000.00

KABANKALAN CITY

LOT 122 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 581 sqm
Floor Area: 380 sqm
Lots 9 & 10, Blk 2, Fzo Subd.
Phase I Brgy. I
Minimum Bid Price: 1,213,000.00

LOT 123 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,179 sqm
Lot 160 Rizal St., Brgy. 8
Minimum Bid Price: 2,418,000.00

LOT 124 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 300 sqm
Floor Area: 217 **SOLD**
Lot 16, Blk 8, Fzo
Subdivision Phase I
Minimum Bid Price:

BINALBAGAN

LOT 125 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 150 sqm
Lot 1, Blk 15, Brgy Progreso
Minimum Bid Price: 37,000.00

CALATRAVA

LOT 126 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 251 sqm
Lot 1471-F-5-L-3,Brgy. Palun-An
Minimum Bid Price: 29,000.00

LOT 127 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 490 sqm
Lot 1471-F-5-L-4,Brgy. Palun-An
Minimum Bid Price: 55,000.00

LOT 128 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 424 sqm
Lot 1471-F-5-L-5,Brgy. Palun-An
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 129 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 398 sqm
Lot 1471-F-5-L-6,Brgy. Palun-An
Minimum Bid Price: 45,000.00

E.B. MAGALONA

LOT 130 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 325 sqm
Lot 224-A-3-A, Poblacion Blvd.
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00

LOT 131 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 650 sqm
Lot 224-A-3-B, Poblacion Blvd.
Minimum Bid Price: 251,000.00

LOT 132 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 328 sqm
Floor Area: 105 sqm
Lot 224-C-6, Poblacion Blvd.
Minimum Bid Price: 409,000.00

HINIGARAN

LOT 133 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 314 sqm
Floor Area: 85 sqm
Lot 3, Blk 16, Brgy. Nanunga
Sto. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 314,000.00

LA CASTELLANA

LOT 134 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3420 sqm
L629, Cor. Roxas & Colmenares Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,745,000.00

MURCIA

LOT 135 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 460 sqm
Floor Area: 100 sqm
Lot 123-Cc, Sunrise Village, Zone 1
Minimum Bid Price: 422,000.00

SAN ENRIQUE

LOT 136 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 250 sqm
Lot 739-E, Vagalion St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 46,000.00

LOT 137 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 7,154 sqm
Lots 707-B-1 & 707-B-2, National Rd.
Sitio Bantad, Brgy. Tabao Baybay
Minimum Bid Price: 1,029,000.00

TOBOSO

LOT 138 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 329 sqm
Lot 2, Blk 6, Dumdum Subd.
Brgy. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 57,000.00

LOT 139 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 531 sqm
Lot 3, Blk 11, Dumdum Subd.
Brgy. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 74,000.00

VALLADOLID

LOT 140 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,446 sqm
Lot 125, Corner Rizal & Lopez Jeana
Minimum Bid Price: 1,248,000.00

LOT 141 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 262-B Rizal St. (National Highway)
Sagua Banua
Minimum Bid Price: 160,000.00

SAGAY CITY

LOT 142 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 500 sqm
Lot 14, Sitio Lerio, Brgy Vito
Minimum Bid Price: 38,000.00

LOT 143 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 500 sqm
Lot 9, Sitio Lerio, Brgy Vito
Minimum Bid Price: 38,000.00

LOT 144 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 28735 sqm
Lot 212, Sitio Ubuhan, Old Sagay
Minimum Bid Price: 270,000.00

LOT 145 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 69,406 sqm
Lot 1756, Sitio Himaya, Bo Maquiling
Minimum Bid Price: 393,000.00

LOT 146 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 201 sqm
Floor Area: 70 sqm
Lot 1, Blk 3, Cor. Osterhois Sharmbeck & Mozart St.
Minimum Bid Price: 316,000.00

LOT 147 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 269 sqm
Floor Area: 226 sqm
Lot 7, Blk 4, Corner Katalbas & Osmena Sts., Poblacion I
Minimum Bid Price: 427,000.00

LOT 148 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Floor Area: 100 sqm
Lot 10, Blk 46, Tupaz St. Ext., Poblacion I
Minimum Bid Price: 584,000.00

LOT 149 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 56 sqm
Lot 3, Marañon, Sr. St., Poblacion II
Minimum Bid Price: 1,259,000.00

SAN CARLOS CITY
Greensville Subdivision

LOT 150 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 454 sqm
Lot 6, Blk 11
Minimum Bid Price: 150,000.00

LOT 151 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 459 sqm
Lot 5, Blk 11
Minimum Bid Price: 157,000.00

LOT 152 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 438 sqm
Lot 7, Blk 11
Minimum Bid Price: 142,000.00

SILAY CITY

LOT 153 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 273 sqm
Floor Area: 67 sqm
Lot 56-A, Zamora St.
Minimum Bid Price: 704,000.00

LOT 154 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 385 sqm
Floor Area: 490 sqm
Lot 544-B, Rizal St., Brgy. Cabug
Minimum Bid Price: 3,156,000.00

LOT 155 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 235 sqm
Floor Area: 202 sqm
Lot 343-B-4-G
Tres Fuentes St. Interior
Minimum Bid Price: 201,000.00

LOT 156 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 684 sqm
Floor Area: 310 sqm
Lot 1, Blk 5, Corner Dr. Jose Locsin St. & Subd. Rd
Minimum Bid Price: 2,355,000.00

LOT 157 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 2,223 sqm
Lot 538-B, Don Emilio Gaston St.(Freedom Blvd), Brgy. Mambulac
Minimum Bid Price: 1,890,000.00

Brgy. V

LOT 158 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,023 sqm
Lot 10-H, Banana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,962,000.00

LOT 159 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,024 sqm
Lot 10-G, Banana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,962,000.00

LOT 160 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,210 sqm
Lot 10-E, Banana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,566,000.00

LOT 161 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,724 sqm
Lot 10-B, Banana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,303,000.00

LOT 162 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,725 sqm
Lot 10-A, Banana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,304,000.00

LOT 163 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,725 sqm
Lot 10-C, Banana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,304,000.00

LOT 164 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,211 sqm
Lot 10-F, Banana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,566,000.00

TALISAY CITY

LOT 165 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 445 sqm
Floor Area: 267 sqm
Lot 4, Block 3, Gamboa Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,330,000.00

Carmela Valley Subdivision

LOT 166 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 180 sqm
Floor Area: 42 sqm
Lot 11 Blk 33, Zone 12-A,Brgy. 14
Minimum Bid Price: 614,000.00

LOT 167 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm
Lot 13 Blk 33, Zone 12-A,Brgy 14
Minimum Bid Price: 299,000.00

LOT 168 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 180 sqm
Floor Area: 151 sqm
Lot 9, Blk 6 Sta. Lucia St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,032,000.00

VICTORIAS CITY

LOT 169 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 126 sqm
Floor Area: 123 sqm
L6 B14 Gloryville Subd.,Brgy. 13
Minimum Bid Price: 333,000.00

LOT 170 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 126 sqm
L7B14 Gloryville Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 101,000.00

LOT 171 - LOT & IMPRVMT
Lot Area: 381 sqm
Floor Area: 70 sqm
Lot 15, Blk 10
Canetown Subd. Phase I
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New air link connects Mindanao with Sabah

DAVAO CITY—South Phoenix Airways will start commercial flights between Sabah, Malaysia and key cities in Mindanao by January.

The move was seen enhancing trade in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East 'Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga).

South Phoenix announced the plan during the recently concluded 3rd Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Business Congress here.

The flights scheduled to start next year, will service the cities of Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu in Sabah; Davao, Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao.

Flights will also service the island provinces of Jolo and Tawi-Tawi in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Glen Lamela, South Phoenix Airways commercial director, said the new air route would open additional markets in the sub-region as it strategically connects unserved and underutilized BIMP-Eaga focus areas in the Philippines and Malaysia.

"The opening of flights serving the BIMP-EAGA is a truly noble effort by South Phoenix Airways to boost the development in Mindanao, by taking on this pioneering effort to help boost economy through regional trade linkages and linking world class destinations," Lamela said.

Businessmen in the ARMM welcomed the new air link, saying this would promote development in the depressed areas in Mindanao.

Luis Go Jr., president of the Sulu Chamber of Commerce, said more Muslim businessmen from Mindanao and Sabah would be encouraged to increase trade visits to both areas.

Secretary Jesus Dureza, chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), said the new air link would allow Mindanao to tap a wider market for export products and services in the sub-region.

"It will certainly put Mindanao on a favorable economic platform and allow the island-region to develop a large base for an enhanced participation in the international trading scene," Dureza said.

During the recent Mindanao Business Council meeting here, President Macapagal-Arroyo pushed for the strengthening of the air linkages in line with efforts to revitalize BIMP-Eaga as a key strategy for developing Mindanao and Palawan. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MANILA FAME INTERNATIONAL

RP trade fair generates $82M in sales

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE RECENTLY concluded Manila FAME International trade fair brought in $82.7 million worth of orders, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Data from the DTI showed that the last Manila FAME earnings were 25 percent and 12 percent more than the figures registered in April 2004 and October 2003, respectively.

Based on the average daily expenses of foreign guests and local exhibitors, the trade fair also generated revenue totaling P52.6 million for local government units and allied industries, such as hotel and transport businesses.

Out of the 2,024 foreign buyers who came to the exhibit, 808 or 40 percent were new or first time visitors.

They were from Jamaica, Mexico, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Iran and Oman.

Based on a survey conducted by Citem, product design was the Philippines' edge over other countries.

"Manila FAME is still small compared to other fairs," Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said. "Perhaps we could aim to reach at least 15 percent of the Canton and Hong Kong fairs, which average 200,000 visitors."

He added the the DTI figures showed "that we are on the right track in promoting our key products and providing them the exposure they need in the international market."

Organized by DTI's export promotion arm, Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), Manila FAME is the country's biggest trade fair showcasing home furnishings, gifts and holiday décor, as well as fashion accessories.

Manila FAME is the country's biggest and is held twice a year in April and October.

The last one was held last week at the World Trade Center.

Export promotion programs such as Manila FAME are the government's way of helping local firms, especially small and medium enterprises, to expand their markets and establish relationships with other local firms as well as foreign companies.

Most of the 540 exhibitors in last week's trade fare were SMEs.

WORLD'S BEST CALL CENTER

From left, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Lilia de Lima, and eTelecare's Ernest Cu, Benedict Hernandez, and Fred Ayala gather during the inauguration of eTelecare's Call Center 3 in Eastwood City Cyber Park, Quezon City. The firm recently won the honor of being the world's best call center company in the world. ROGER CARPIO

Bangko Sentral raises inflation forecast

From page B1

For this year, he said supply shocks would contribute about 1.67 percentage points to inflation. This share is seen to ease to 1.2 percentage points next year and further to 0.74 percentage point in 2006.

He explained that current developments continued to support the maintenance of the BSP's key policy rates at current levels.

"Monetary policy takes a 15- to 21-month lag. This means that monetary action taken at this point will affect 2006 and will have minimal impact on 2004 and 2005," Guinigundo said.

Any action from the BSP, he stressed, would thus be limited to safeguarding the inflation path in 2006. As such, he said there might be no reason to change the monetary settings even in 2005.

"This does not mean, however, that monetary policy will not be used to deal with inflationary pressures in the near term," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said the risk of a sustained period of rising oil prices could lead to economic distortions by slowing down domestic demand and sustaining inflation pressures reinforced by public expectations of persistently high inflation.

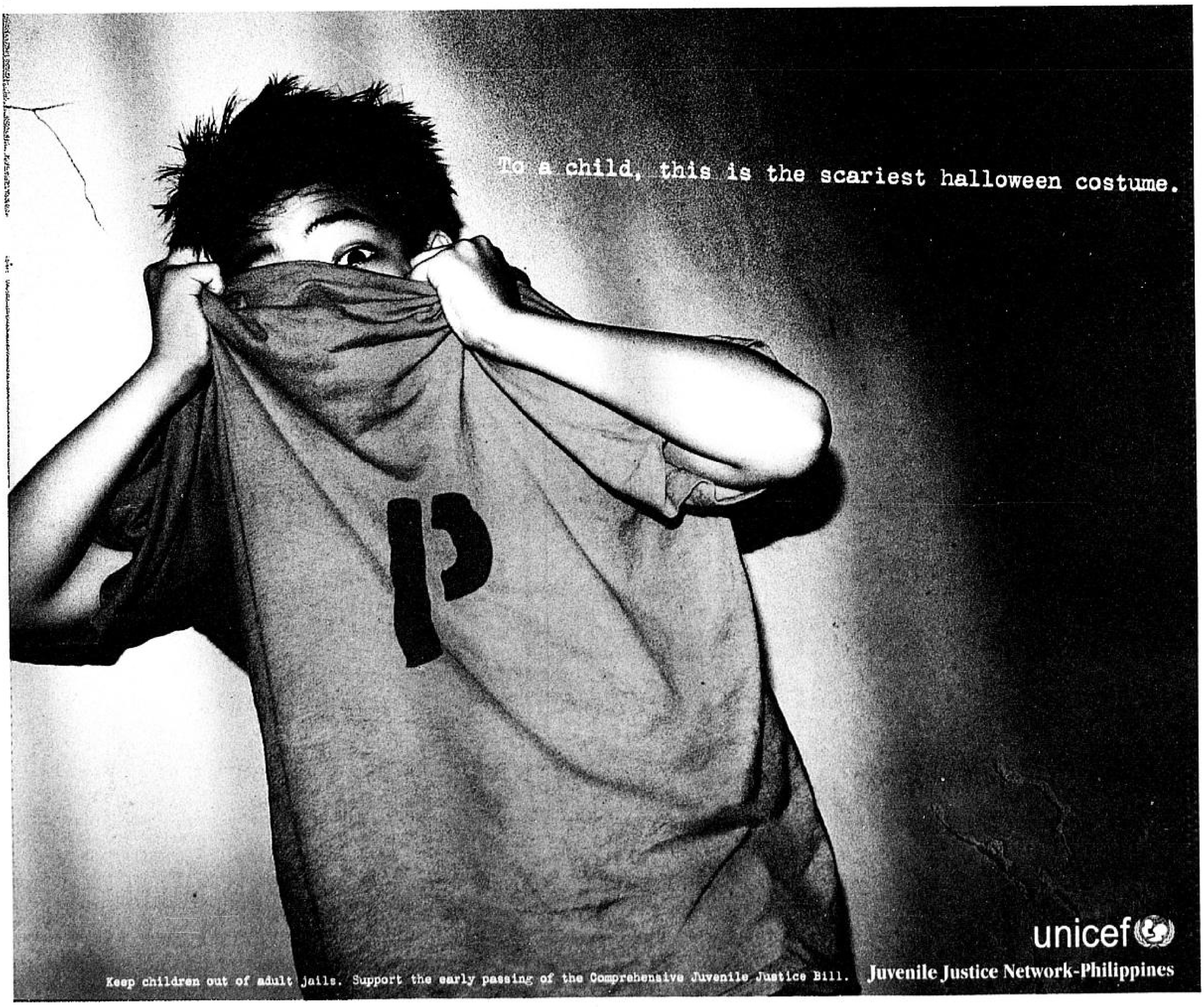
"Monetary action will thus become necessary when the available evidence begins to point more strongly to inflation pressures that are over and above those generated by ongoing supply shocks, or to emerging demand-side pressures on prices," Buenaventura said.

"Authorities also recognize the risk of prolonged exchange market pressure caused by narrowing nominal interest rate differential, ample liquidity among banks, and negative market sentiment that could feed into inflation and inflation expectations," he said.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board has kept its key policy interest rates unchanged at 6.75 percent for overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 9 percent for the overnight lending or repurchase rate since July last year.

Its inflation-targeting approach recognized the limits of the effectiveness of monetary policy by providing a clear definition of the acceptable circumstances under which an inflation-targeting central bank may fail to achieve its target.

These circumstances include movements in prices of agricultural products, natural calamities, movements in international oil prices, and changes in government administrative measures.



To a child, this is the scariest halloween costume.
P
unicef
Keep children out of adult jails. Support the early passing of the Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Bill.
Juvenile Justice Network-Philippines

Crude prices ease further on China's rate hike

SINGAPORE—The price of crude oil fell for a third straight day on Friday, brought down from a midweek record high by news of higher-than-expected US stocks and by China's latest moves to cool its economy.

Those factors plus further recovery efforts in the hurricane-hit Gulf of Mexico could bring light, sweet crude down to $50 a barrel—a price level not seen since the end of September.

Crude for December delivery on the benchmark New York Mercantile Exchange was at $50.51 in after-hours Asian trade by early afternoon Friday, down 41 cents from its overnight closing.

It had hit an unprecedented intraday mark of $55.67 Monday, and closed at a record $55.17 on Oct. 22 and matched on Tuesday. Heating oil contracts for November, which expire Friday, were trading at $1.4375 per gallon (3.8 liters), down a cent and a half.

The US Energy Department said Wednesday that crude supplies increased by 4 million barrels to 283.4 million barrels last week—roughly double the increase Wall Street was expecting. Upon the news, crude futures dropped 5 percent on Wednesday, and retreated more than a dollar Thursday.

While crude prices are still up by more than 70 percent from a year ago, they would need to surpass $90 per barrel to approximate the all-time peak, in inflation-adjusted terms, set in 1980.

On Friday, China raised its interest rates for one-year loans—the first increase in more than nine years—as Beijing tries to curb rising investment that's been keeping economic growth at over 9 percent a year and has pushed inflation to a seven-year high.

China is the world's second-largest crude oil consumer, after the United States.

Also allaying oil supply worries was the news of some recovery in the hurricane-hobbled Gulf of Mexico. There were reports that 100,000 barrels are back on line in the region, said John Kilduff, senior vice president of energy risk management at Fimat USA.

"If these bearish elements continue ... I think that might be it for the price run," Kilduff said.

Daily production among the Gulf of Mexico platforms remains around 20 percent below normal since Hurricane Ivan swept through the region mid-September, the US federal Minerals Management Service reported on its website.

Late last month, production was down by nearly 30 percent of the normal output of 1.7 million barrels a day.

Production outages in the Gulf, which has resulted in nearly 26 million barrels being locked in, was the catalyst for the latest price surge.

Supply disruptions and unrest in key producers Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Venezuela also nudged prices upward.

Traders are now on watch for a planned general strike on Sunday across Nigeria, where unions have threatened to disrupt supplies in the Niger Delta, the fifth-largest source of US crude.

Meanwhile, Singapore Airlines—the world's second largest airline by market capitalization—said Thursday that surging fuel prices added S$204 million (US$122 million; euro 99 million) to expenditures for the April-September 2004 period.

The airline's chief executive, Chew Choon Seng, said a one-dollar rise in the price of jet fuel adds $14 million to the company's expenditure.

Jet fuel, a blend of kerosene and additives, is currently trading above $60 per barrel—a level that the International Air Transport Association warns could add to an estimated $3 billion to $4 billion losses for airlines this year. *AP*

CHINESE laborers work in Shanghai in this file photo. China's first interest rate hike in nearly a decade will not have a big impact on the economy, a central bank spokesperson said on Friday. REUTERS

New jobless claims in US jump

WASHINGTON—The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week by 20,000, the largest jump in a month, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

The bigger-than-expected increase pushed total new claims to 350,000 last week and provided fresh evidence that the labor market is still under pressure even though the economic recovery is about to celebrate its third anniversary.

The increase of 20,000 was sharply higher than the 6,000 gain that many private economists had been expecting and was the biggest one-week rise since a jump of 21,000 claims in the week of Sept. 25.

The four-week moving average for claims, which is intended to smooth out some of the volatility from the week-to-week changes, fell slightly to 343,250 last week, down from 348,750 the previous week. It was the lowest level for the four-week moving average since mid-September.

Labor Department analysts said the increase in the number of new claims is still being inflated by hurricane-related layoffs in Florida although this impact has been declining in recent weeks. Claims have been unusually volatile during this period.

Private economists noted that claims had fallen by 25,000 the previous week and suggested that averaging the two weeks together would supply a more accurate picture of where the labor market is at the current time.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at High Frequency Economics, said that he believed that the average level of claims over the past two weeks was consistent with job growth of around 160,000 per month.

"If sustained, payroll gains of that size, which would be an improvement on recent months, would keep the unemployment rate broadly stable," he said. "There certainly seems little near-term prospects of a significant improvement in the unemployment picture and it could even deteriorate if oil slows consumption."

The health of the economy has been a major debating point in the presidential campaign with President George W. Bush contending that his tax cuts have helped the economy to recover from the 2001 recession while challenger Sen. John Kerry contends that the tax cuts went overwhelmingly to the wealthy and did little to spur economic growth. *AP*

China interest rates bring down Asia stocks

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks mostly fell on Friday as China's interest rate rise fed concerns the country may become less of a magnet for raw materials, while investors punished companies that reported disappointing earnings.

Japan's Pioneer Corp. plunged 13 percent after the electronics maker shocked with a 16.3 percent drop in operating profit and a deep cut to its full-year forecast.

Fears that China's ravenous demand for energy and metals might slacken sent shares of Australia's BHP Billiton, the world's biggest miner, down 3.63 percent, while shares of CNOOC Ltd., China's top offshore oil and gas producer, fell 4.17 percent.

Investors had extra reason for caution before a report later on Friday on third-quarter US gross domestic product.

Most economists agree the quarter's growth was more robust than in the previous one, but estimates vary widely.

An MSCI index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.05 percent but its metals component fell 1.69 percent.

China's Shanghai composite stock index was down 0.88 percent, paring an initial fall of almost 3 percent.

While economists debated the long-term implications of China's move, investors decided it could have a negative effect on the soaring earnings of some companies supplying raw materials to feed China's voracious appetite.

For the first time in nearly a decade, China's central bank on Thursday raised the benchmark rate on one-year yuan loans to 5.58 percent from 5.31 percent and the rate on one-year deposits to 2.25 percent from 1.98 percent.

The move was seen as an attempt to guide a booming economy toward slower growth.

Even companies with strong earnings were not immune. Nippon Steel Corp. fell 2.34 percent on the rate rise despite reporting a half-year profit that beat its own projection and further raising its full-year target.

Benchmark stock indexes fell around 0.3 percent in Singapore and Hong Kong Indexes in Taiwan, Australia and South Korea were slightly higher, up 0.1 to 0.2 percent, as weaker oil prices offset the Chinese rate rise.

Meanwhile, shares in Nomura Holdings Inc., Japan's biggest brokerage, slid 4.27 percent after it reported an unexpectedly steep 93-percent fall in quarterly profit. *Reuters*

Japan central bank holds key policy rates steady

TOKYO—Japan's central bank kept its loose monetary policy unchanged Friday amid signs that keeping ample cash flowing in the financial system is necessary to keep the nation's economic recovery going.

The Bank of Japan policy board decided at a one-day meeting to keep its target for liquidity, or the extra cash it keeps for commercial banks, in a range of 30 trillion yen ($282 billion; euro 220 billion) to 35 trillion yen ($329 billion; euro 259 billion).

But the bank has said that it will not change its policy until it is sure that deflation is under control.

Japan has been plagued by deflation for several years, a situation in which prices continue to drop, dragging down profits, wages and economic activity.

The bank has kept interest rates at zero since March 2001.

The world's second largest economy, after more than a decade of stagnation, has shown signs of a rebound on growing exports and consumer spending on the mend.

Earlier in the day, the government reported that Japan's unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in September, down from 4.8 percent in August.

Also Friday, the labor ministry said the ratio of job offers to job seekers, an indicator of demand for labor, rose to 0.84 in September from 0.83 in August. The number indicates that 84 jobs were being offered for every 100 workers seeking employment in September.

That was the best showing in more than 11 years when the number was at 0.84 in March 1993, according to the ministry.

Japan's unemployment rate had reached a record high 5.5 percent in recent years, the highest since the government began keeping track in the 1950s.

After more than a decade of sluggish growth and occasional, short-lived rebounds, analysts have been saying the Japanese economy appears to be headed toward a solid recovery. *AP*

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2nd MATE

Minimum of 3rd Mates license; able to work with a small team of deckhands under the direction of the 1st mate; with good all around navigational and deckwork skills

CHIEF ENGINEER

At least 2nd Engr. License. Apart from experience with high speed marine diesels; must have good all around experience of engine room system plus maintenance of out board engines

ASST. ENGINEER

At least 3rd engineer license. Apart from experience with high speed marine diesels must have good all around experence of all yachts systems plus maintenance of out board engines

BOSUN

Must be experienced in running a disciplined Filipino deck crew

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Experience in cruise liners or mega yachts; able to cook and present European, Western, Asian cuisine to the highest standards. Able to run a small well fitted galley to the cleanest standard.

LAUNDRYMAN/WOMAN

Experience in all types of laundry operation.

CHIEF STEWARD

A team leader with initiative; with pleasing personality and able to work under pressure.

STEWARD/ESS

Candidates should be well versed in quality housekeeping skills. With pleasing personality and able to work under pressure

DECKHANDS (AB & OS)

At least 2 years sea experience and used to working to the highest detail.

NURSE

Licensed and experienced nurse in crisis and emergency procedures

IMPORTANT The following applies as basic qualification for all positions:

- Fluent in conversational English
- Preferably with mega yacht/cruise liner experience
- All positions are for non smokers only
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Website: www.crewasia.ph

POEA LICENSE NO.: POEA 220-SB-043004-R

MANILAWIRE AND CABLE CORPORATION a newly established company located at Mandaluyong City is looking for candidates to fill in the following positions:

Accounting Assistants (2)

- ☐ Female, 22 to 28 years old
- ☐ With at least 3 to 4 years work experience handling general bookkeeping, preparation of financial statements, costing and government reportorial requirements
- ☐ With clear understanding and knowledge in taxation
- ☐ Familiar with MYOB accounting software
- ☐ Diligent, attentive to details and willing to work long hours

HRD Officer

- ☐ Female, 22 to 32 years old
- ☐ Must have at least (3) years supervisory experience in all phases of Human Resources Development, specifically in recruitment, selection and placement, compensation and benefits administration and employee communication and relation services
- ☐ Must be a graduate of BS/AB Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course from a reputable school
- ☐ Extensive knowledge on Labor Code
- ☐ Enterprising individual who can deliver results
- ☐ Equipped with superior presentation and communication skills
- ☐ Dynamic, creative, goal oriented
- ☐ With excellent communication and human relations skills
- ☐ With pleasing personality, dynamic disposition and excellent planning sense
- ☐ With good leadership and supervisory abilities
- ☐ Proficient in Microsoft Office application

Sales Executives

- ☐ Male/Female, 22 to 30 years old
- ☐ Preferable has a college degree in Marketing , Engineering or related course
- ☐ With previous sales experience in telecom, electrical and data communication products
- ☐ Good selling, interpersonal and communication skills
- ☐ Goal driven and a team player
- ☐ Fast learner, hardworking and pleasing personality

Interested applicants may send application letter with comprehensive resumé and picture at:

Code # 333
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EDSA, Mandaluyong City

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 7376 PROMULGATED ON 12 OCTOBER 2004, "RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF SPECIAL ELECTIONS IN BARANGAYS IMELDA AND GUSARAN, BOTH OF SILVINO LOBOS, NORTHERN SAMAR ON NOVEMBER 6, 2004 PURSUANT TO COMELEC EN BANC RESOLUTION PROMULGATED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2004," RE FOR THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL POSITIONS TO BE VOTED UPON.
x-----------------x

PRESENT

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr.	Commissioner
GARCILLANO, VIRGILIO O.	Commissioner
BARCELONA, Manuel A.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 29 October 2004

RESOLUTION NO. 7384

WHEREAS, for the 06 November 2004 Special Elections in Barangays Imelda and Gusaran, both of Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar, the Commission promulgated on 12 October 2004 COMELEC Resolution No. 7376 providing among others, that "Special Elections shall be for the local elective positions of Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Sangguniang Bayan members in Barangays Imelda and Gusaran, both of Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar on November 06, 2004."

WHEREAS, there was a total failure of elections in the aforesaid two (2) barangays, and it necessarily follows that all positions from President down to Sangguniang Bayan Members were not voted upon.

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to include the national elective positions for President, Vice-President, Senators, Congressmen and Party List Representative, and provincial elective positions Governor, Vice-Governor and Sangguniang Panlalawigan members, for those to be voted upon.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission now RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES, to amend Resolution No. 7376 to include all elective positions from President down to the Sangguniang Bayan members, to be voted upon in the aforesaid special elections.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution relative to the aforesaid special elections in two (2) newspapers, one (1) of general circulation in the Philippines and one (1) of local circulation.

Let the Executive Director, assisted by the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, the Election and Barangay Affairs Department, the Finance Services Department, the Education and Information Department and Administrative Services Department implement this Resolution.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

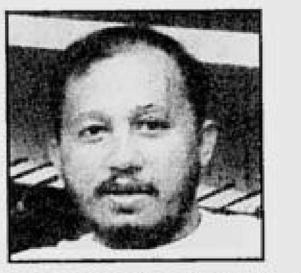
FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – October 30, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Mr. REMEGIO "REM" RAMIREZ, whose picture is shown above, is no longer connected with Philippine Vacation Hits, Marketing Inc., Vacation Hits Marketing - Canada, and IQUEST Travel Bureau, Inc. Any transaction entered into by Mr. Ramirez in the name of the above-mentioned organizations starting October 1, 2004 are considered null and void. For inquiries, please contact April Gloria Cioco - Makati Office (02) 6700-84-90 or Joyce D. Del Rio- Calabarzon Office, (049) 808-3998.

(PDI–Oct. 30, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRFREIGHT FORWARDER

ELAION CORPORATION,
Applicant.

CAB CASE NO. 25275
x-----------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that ELAION CORPORATION has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for Authority to Operate as an International Airfreight Forwarder. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on 10 November 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, or that copies thereof and the application itself be sent to existing CAB certified airfreight forwarders either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least three (3) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of the application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

18 October 2004
Pasay City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.
Chief, Legal and Enforcement Division

(PDI–Oct. 24 & 30, 2004)

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E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **health protection coverage of employees** using the Cost Plus Scheme of a Health Maintenance Program and **rice allocation** for the period covering January 1 to December 31, 2005. Relevant Information and schedule of events are presented below.

Relevant Information/Activities	Health Protection Coverage	Rice Allocation
Estimated Number of Employees	687	651
Approved Budget of the Contract	Premium rate of P16,000 for health protection coverage of P600,000 per employee or P10,992,000.00	P1,200 per sack Actual number of sacks may vary from month to month depending on the number of PDIC employees entitled for rice allowance in a given month
Minimum Requirements	Partnership and corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines whether 100% local or at least 60% owned by citizens of the Philippines Bidders must have at least five (5) years experience in the business and with at least ten (10) existing corporate clients	Farmers' cooperatives/ corporations duly accredited by the National Food Authority (NFA)
Availability of the Instruction to Bidders/Terms of Reference	Starting November 2, 2004	Starting November 2, 2004
Prebid Conference	November 16, 2004, 2:00 p.m. 7th Floor, Board Room, 2228 Pasong Tamo Street, Makati City	Not Applicable
Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals afterwhich, opening shall follow immediately.	Until 9:00 a.m., November 29, 2004 PDIC Extension Office, 9th Floor, SSS Bldg. Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City	Until 2:00 p.m., November 17, 2004 PDIC Extension Office, 9th Floor, SSS Bldg Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street Makati City

The Instruction to Bidders and the Terms of Reference shall be made available to interested bidders starting November 2, 2004 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City after payment of a non-refundable amount of ₱ 300.00.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Oct. 30, 2004)

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF CAROLINA
BUNCOMBE COUNTY
In the Superior Court, Case No. 03-CVS-05597

PATRICIA SMITH, Plaintiff
v.s.
THE GROVE PARK INN RESORT, INC.,
WORLDWIDE TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.
Defendants,
v.s.
KENNETH M. POWELL, WINA GO POWELL,
POWELL SERVICES, INC. and JERRY SMITH,

To: Kenneth M. Powell

TAKEN NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: The Grove Park Inn Resort, Inc. has asserted claims for conspiracy to defraud, conversion, and RICO. These claims relate to four contracts for renovations at the Grove Park Inn, and certain payments made to you by contractors on those projects.

You are required to make defense to such a pleading not later than forty (40) days from FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION TO BE INSERTED HERE, exclusive of such date, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply ot the Court for the relief sought.

This the 23rd day of October, 2004.

Michael G. Adams
N.C. State Bar No. 16528
PARKER, POE, ADAMS & BERNSTEIN, L.L.P.
2500 Charlotte Plaza, Charlotte, North Carolina 28244
Telephone (704) 372-9000
Facsimile (704) 334-4706

(PDI – Oct 23, 30 & Nov. 6 2004)

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PNOC The Energy Company

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P.O. Box EA-489, Ermita 1000, Manila
Tel. Nos. 525-9271 to 75
Fax No. 525-8376 / 524-8989

NOTICE OF BIDDING

FOR SALE THROUGH SEALED BIDDING
ON CASH "AS IS, WHERE IS," BASIS

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(MT) GRACIANO LOPEZ JAENA

LOA	89.20 M
LBP	88.00 M
BREADTH	16.00 M
DEPTH	7.20 M
DRAFT	6.20 M
GROSS TONNAGE	2,897.12
YEAR BUILT	1984
CLASSIFICATION	ABS

Above vessel now anchored at Mabini, Batangas.

Bid form can be secured from Management Services Department c/o Mr. Raoul Trinidad 7th Floor Room 718 of the same address at Tel. Nos. 525-9289 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 P.M. November 16, 2004** upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

A bidders deposit fo One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) in the form of cash, cashier's or manager's check is required. Bid indicated should be inclusive of ten (10%) percent Value Added Tax. (VAT)

PNOC-STC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality or infirmities found therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO
Chairperson-Disposal Committee

(PDI – October 30, 2004)

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Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Col. ARTURO Y. CUSTODIO, PAF (Ret.)

Mayor of Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija

who passed away on
21 October 2004

wish to express our deep appreciation to all those who offered Holy Masses and prayers, participated in necrological services, assisted with funeral arrangements, sent flowers, cards, messages of sympathy, kept vigil and attended the funeral services. In our moment of bereavement, we draw strength from your kindness.

Thank you very much.

Helen
Francis, Lorraine & Bunny
Toto, Bambi & Enzo
and Minnie

In Loving Memory

On the 12th Death Anniversary of

JAIME V. DY BUNCIO

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory today,
October 30, 2004 at:

Mary the Queen Church
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City .... 6:00 P.M.
Sanctuario de San Jose
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City .... 6:15 A.M.
Christ the King Church
Greenmeadows Ave., Q.C. .... 6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Q.C. .... 7:00 A.M.
Sanctuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City .... 6:00 P.M.
St. John Bosco Church
Pasay Road, Makati City .... 7:30 A.M.
St. Francis Church
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City .... 6:00 P.M.

His family and relatives would like to request friends and relatives to remember him in their prayers.

DANIEL ESTRELLOSO LARGO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 28, 2004 at the age of 52.

His children **Danie Anne, Kristine, Daniel Anthony,** and **Marvin**; son-in-law **Ricky**, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at the Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City from 28 to 30 October 2004; and at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes Davao City from 31 October to 3 November 2004.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 3, 2004 at the Davao Memorial Park, Davao City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

MEDICINES/MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND TELLER'S BOOTH

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility & to bid for the following items:

1. Bulk Purchase of Medicines & Medical Supplies for the 2nd Semester CY 2004
   Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P5,915,934.79
   Source of Funds : CY 2004 Budget for Supplies & Materials – Medical
   Contract Duration : Fifteen (15) Calendar Days
   Prospective bidders/suppliers must be:
   a. registered with the Bureau of Food and Drug
   b. able to present authenticated certificates of their product registration from the Bureau of Food and Drug.
   c. in the pharmaceutical business for at least five (5) years.
2. Supply, delivery and installation of Teller's Booth and other accessories for various SSS Branch Offices
   Approved Budget for the Contract : P4,890,900.00
   Source of Fund : CAPEX – Furniture
   Contract Duration : Forty-five (45) calendar days
   Minimum Requirement : 3-year experience in the manufacture & supply of System Furniture; Office Chairs; with Plant Facilities

This is a re-publication.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements	November 02, 2004 to November 12, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements • Item 1 • Item 2	November 17, 2004 November 18, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee • Item 1 – P5,000.00 • Item 2 – P1,000.00	November 22, 2004 November 23, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Pre-bid Conference • Item 1 • Item 2	Nov. 25, 2004, 2:00pm Nov. 26, 2004, 2:00 pm	Bidding Room, 6th Floor, SSS Main Bldg.
Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin.		

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – Oct. 30, 2004)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616
Fax No. 928-2303 / 433-5629

INVITATION TO BID

The MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC. is inviting interested & qualified suppliers to participate in the sealed bid for the supply and staggered delivery of the following items:

	Quantity	Description
1.	243,000 LM or 1,620 rolls	PETUBING, 25 mm x 150mm
MWSI Technical Specifications: Section 31015 – Polyethylene Pipes (PE)		
2.	480 sets	VALVE BOX, CI, 600mm with Cover for Gate Valve
MWSI Technical Specifications: Section 31016 – Cast Iron (CI) Fittings		

Interested Bidders may, beginning **November 3 until November 09, 2004**, obtain further information and secure a complete set of technical specifications and Terms and Conditions (Bid Documents) upon payment of a non-refundable document fee in the amount of P1,000.00, payable to MWSI, at the following address:

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Basement, MWSI Office, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No. 435-33-66; Fax No. 928-23-03 / 433-5629

Submission of Bid Proposal, together with all the sealed bidding requirements, is scheduled on **November 16, 2004; 2:00 P.M.**

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bid without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deemed most advantageous to the company.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI – Oct. 30 & 31, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of the following items for use at the NFA Central Office as follows:

LOT	ITEMS	APPROVED BUDGET
1	3 units camera with accessories	490,500.00
2	1 set PABX Telephone System	350,000.00
3	5 units Fingerprint ID Time Recorder	375,000.00
4	1 set Paging System	500,000.00
5	181 pieces tokens (plaque for 5-year service awardees)	80,000.00

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

October 29 to November 15, 2004	Submission of Letter of Intent, Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements including Issuance of bid documents
November 18, 2004 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Flr., NFA
December 2, 2004	Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA
(9:00-9:45 AM)	Submission of Eligibility requirements and bid proposals
(10:00 AM)	Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Eligibility requirements may be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor Tengsico Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr., Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of Letter of intent specifying the equipment/item to be bidded. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to prospective bidders upon payment of the following non-refundable fees:

P 2,000.00 for those participating in the bidding for one, two, three or all of lots 1 to 4
P 1,000.00 for those participating in the bidding for lot 5 only

Any eligible bidder can bid for one or all of the items.

For further inquiries, you may call Violy Villarama or Deo Dizon at tel. no. 712-0454 or tel. no. 712-3341 up to 49 locals 8520 or 8503.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chair

(PDI – Oct. 29, 30 & Nov. 5, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
GOVERNMENT CENTER, PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
Fax No. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION VIII

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites all interested Private Security Agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of security services for Calendar Year 2005 at NFA Regional Office No. VIII. The service contract to be bid shall be divided into lots with one province treated as one (1) Lot, to wit:

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	NO. OF SG'S	PER ANNUM
1	NORTHERN LEYTE	24	P2,984,329.28
2	SOUTHERN LEYTE	10	1,235,137.20
3	BILIRAN	4	494,054.88
4	WESTERN SAMAR	9	1,111,623.48
5	NORTHERN SAMAR	17	2,099,733.24
6	EASTERN SAMAR	12	1,482,164.64

LIST OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ISSUANCE AT NFA REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII AND SAID REQUIREMENTS REGISTRATION CAN BE SUBMITTED TO RBAC SECRETARIAT AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE PAWING, PALO, LEYTE FOR REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION.

Only Registered Private Security Agencies with the NFA will be allowed to apply for eligibility.

The eligibility requirements may be secured from the Secretariat Bids and Awards Committee for Security Services (BAC-SS) at the NFA Regional Office, Pawing, Palo, Leyte after payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00). Only those who have pre-qualified and considered eligible by the RBAC and who have paid the Php5,000.00 as Bidding Fee shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bidding Conference and the Bidding Proper. Hereunder are the schedules:

October 25-Nov. 4, 2004	Issuance of Application Forms for Registration
November 8, 2004 (1500H)	Deadline for submission of application forms and required documents for Registration
October 28-Nov. 12, 2004	Issuance of Certificate of Registration and application for Eligibility to Bid
November 24, 2004 (1500H)	Deadline for submission of application for eligibility and documentary requirements
December 1, 2004 (1300H)	Pre-Bidding Conference at the NFA-R.O. 8 Conference Room, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
December 13, 2004 (9:30H)	Submission and opening of Sealed Bids

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective bidder owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager II
and Chairman-RBAC, NFA-ROVIII

(PDI–Oct. 23 & 30, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
C.M. Recto Avenue, Lapasan, 9000 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 72-60-65 /(088) 856-1738 / 856-1739
TeleFax (088) 856-4696

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(REBIDDING)

The Mindanao Polytechnic State College through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all interested Information Technology Firms to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for:

NAME OF PROJECT	LEASE-TO-OWN CONTRACT FOR THE FOLLOWING
	1 unit SERVER
	60 units PERSONAL COMPUTER
	3 units SWITCH
	1 Lot STRUCTURED CABLING
APPROVED BUDGET	PhP 3,380,000.00
FUNDING SOURCE	Students Library Computerization Collection

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
1. Pre-Bid Conference – November 15, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
2. Deadline for submission of documents for Eligibility Check – December 1, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids – December 1, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

Bidding Documents can be secured from the office of Mr. Jose R. Baning, Head of BAC Secretariat with Tel. No. 856-1739 local 136 or to the BAC Chairman, Mr. Cesar C. Esquinas with Tel. No. 856-1739 local 106, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND (PhP 1,000.00) PESOS, starting November 15, 2004 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

MPSC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any formality or defects and to make an award to the proposal most advantageous to the MPSC. The MPSC neither assumes any obligation for whatsoever losses that the bidders may incur in the preparation of their bids nor guarantees that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) CESAR C. ESQUINAS
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 30 & Nov. 6, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that the following are the newly elected members of the Board of Directors of **ANGLE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.** located at 2nd Flr. Cancio Bldg., 1047 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City

ERMILITA M. PARTOSA – Chairman of the Board
BRIGITTE B. LEAL – Chief Executive Officer
GINALYN S. FAJARDO – President/Director
FELIX M. PARTOSA JR. – Treasurer/Director
RONALDO M. PARTOSA – Corporate Secretary/Director
AMADA P. TORREJOS – Asst. Corporate Secretary/Director

This publication is in compliance with POEA rules and regulations.

(PDI – Oct. 30, 2004)

Tan is NFA's new administrator

GREGORIO Y. Tan, Jr. formerly Deputy Administrator for Operations of the National Food Authority (NFA) has been appointed as the agency's new Administrator. He was sworn into office by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during a mass oathtaking held Oct. 21 at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall.

Tan is the first appointee as NFA administrator from within the agency. He joined NFA in 1987 as Assistant Administrator for Marketing Development, a position he held until 1995 when he eventually was promoted as Deputy Administrator for Operations.

When former NFA Administrator Arthur C. Yap was appointed as Secretary of Agriculture in August 2004, Tan was designated as officer-in-charge of the food agency.

Before joining NFA, Tan was employed at the Philippine National Bank (PNB) where he rose from the ranks from management trainee to senior assistant manager for the marketing department from 1980 to 1986.

Tan obtained his Masters in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

He studied at the Ateneo de Manila from preparatory to 5th year.

The new NFA chief, along with 18 other presidential appointees, join the Arroyo administration's force to carry out the government's plan particularly in food security, livelihood and employment.

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Living with an incurable skin disease

By Charles E. Buban

(Yesterday, Oct. 29, was World Psoriasis Day. The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations says the day should serve as a global wake-up call to the condition of psoriasis and the launch of a new patient proclamation calling for urgent action to significantly enhance the quality of life of people with psoriasis.)

THURSDAY, Oct. 21, was a memorable day for Clara (real name withheld upon request). For the first time in more than 20 years, Clara, who is now in her late 30s, wore a bathing suit, no longer worried about what other people might notice on her legs and other parts of her body.

Clara usually avoids occasions, like swimming parties, where she would need to dress in clothes that reveal some flesh.

"My friends and relatives thought I was afraid to swim or was uncomfortable in the water. The truth was I didn't want them to discover my 'little' secret," she says.

Clara's "little secret" is psoriasis, a lifelong skin disease often mistaken for leprosy, causing unsightly, inflamed lesions that most often appear on the elbows, knees, scalp, shins, back and nails.

Clara's on-and-off bout with psoriasis started when she was 10.

"Dandruff-like flakes started appearing on my scalp. It was more severe than dandruff and was a cause of severe embarrassment when I was a child," she recalls.

Only those very close to Clara—her husband, her three children, her parents and a few others—are aware of her skin ailment.

125M worldwide

Clara is just one of the 125 million people worldwide afflicted with this incurable, but noncontagious immune system disorder.

Dr. Vermén Verallo-Rowell, chair of the Task Force on Psoriasis and president of the Skin Sciences Research Center of the Philippines says psoriasis can flare up at any age.

"Although [the disease] has no cure, people with psoriasis can vastly improve their [condition] and the quality of their lives given wide and equal access to modern treatments and increased awareness and professional support," Rowell says.

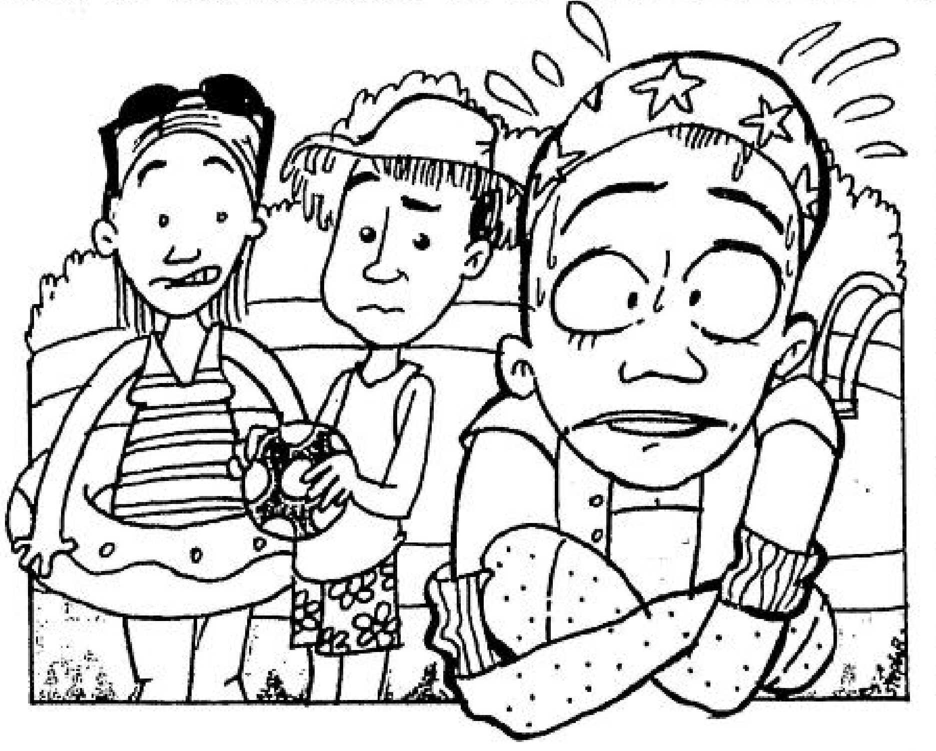
Psoriasis does not kill, but it is responsible for a great deal of physical and psychological suffering among those who have it, says Rowell.

Many people with psoriasis experience feelings of depression at some point, says the doctor.

She adds: "Simply coping with the symptoms themselves can be a financially straining, time-consuming and frustrating business."

Clara realizes that not a lot of people would understand her condition.

"Psoriasis is a skin disease about which the public knows next to nothing... Imagine how people would have reacted that Thursday when I entered the pool had they known of my condition," she says.



Cause of flareups

Exactly what causes psoriasis flareups is not yet fully understood, but there is a lot of ongoing research into this, says Rowell.

It has only been in recent years when psoriasis was identified as an immune-mediated, genetic disease.

"Although it is believed that psoriasis has a genetic component, most researchers agree that the immune system is somehow mistakenly triggered, which speeds up the growth cycle of skin cells," says Rowell.

She explains that a normal skin cell matures and is shed in 28 to 30 days.

By contrast, a psoriatic skin cell takes only three to four days to mature and move to the surface. And instead of shedding, the cells pile up and form lesions.

Range of treatments

Although there is still no cure for psoriasis, research have resulted in a broad range of treatments to reduce psoriasis symptoms, clear up the skin and send the disease into remission.

In the United States, Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments range from skin creams to lasers that aim ultraviolet rays at the skin to the newest treatments called biologicals—injectable drugs made from living cells.

Rowell says a dermatologist can guide the patient in the selection of the right treatment. The traditional approach is to start with the least potent treatments (topicals and phototherapy) and move on to stronger ones (such as methotrexate or biologics) until a satisfactory combination of results and risks is found.

"The goal is to find a treatment that has the best results and the fewest side effects," Rowell says.

In Clara's case, the biologics seem to be working.

"I'm taking an injection [efalizumab] once a week and so far, it has been the most effective for me," she notes.

Each injection costs around P16,000.

Stress, diet

Rowell also advises her patients to practice positive thinking.

"Besides infections, stress of any kind should be managed," the doctor says.

Diet must also be addressed.

Rowell says many psoriatic patients avoid fish (which have Omega-3 fatty acids) or have low-fat diets (which may increase the Omega-6 fatty acids found mostly in vegetables and grains).

"Of course, the best dietary advice for people with psoriasis is the same as for anyone else: eat a sensible diet. While you're at it, get regular exercise," Rowell suggests.

For Clara, living with psoriasis is no different from walking a tightrope: "Miss a step and you will have flareups."

"But," she says, "one shouldn't feel that this is a life sentence or something. I still consider myself lucky that my 'secret' is not infectious or life-threatening."

Green, black tea could hold back Alzheimer's, scientists say

LONDON—A steaming cup of tea could help ward off the effects of Alzheimer's disease, scientists said on Tuesday.

Laboratory tests found that regular cups of green and black tea inhibit the activity of certain enzymes in the brain which bring on Alzheimer's, a form of generative dementia that affects an estimated 10 million people worldwide.

The research by the Medicinal Plant Research Centre at Newcastle University, northeast England, is published in the academic journal Phytotherapy Research.

Scientists tested coffee as well as green and black tea. Black tea is derived from the same plant as the green variety but has a different taste and appearance as it is fermented.

The results found that while coffee had no significant effect, both green and black tea inhibited the activity of enzymes associated with the development of Alzheimer's.

According to the journal, tea inhibited the activity of the enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE), which breaks down the chemical messenger, or neurotransmitter, acetylcholine. Alzheimer's is characterized by a drop in acetylcholine.

Green tea and black tea also hinder the activity of the enzyme butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE), seen in protein deposits found in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's.

Green tea better

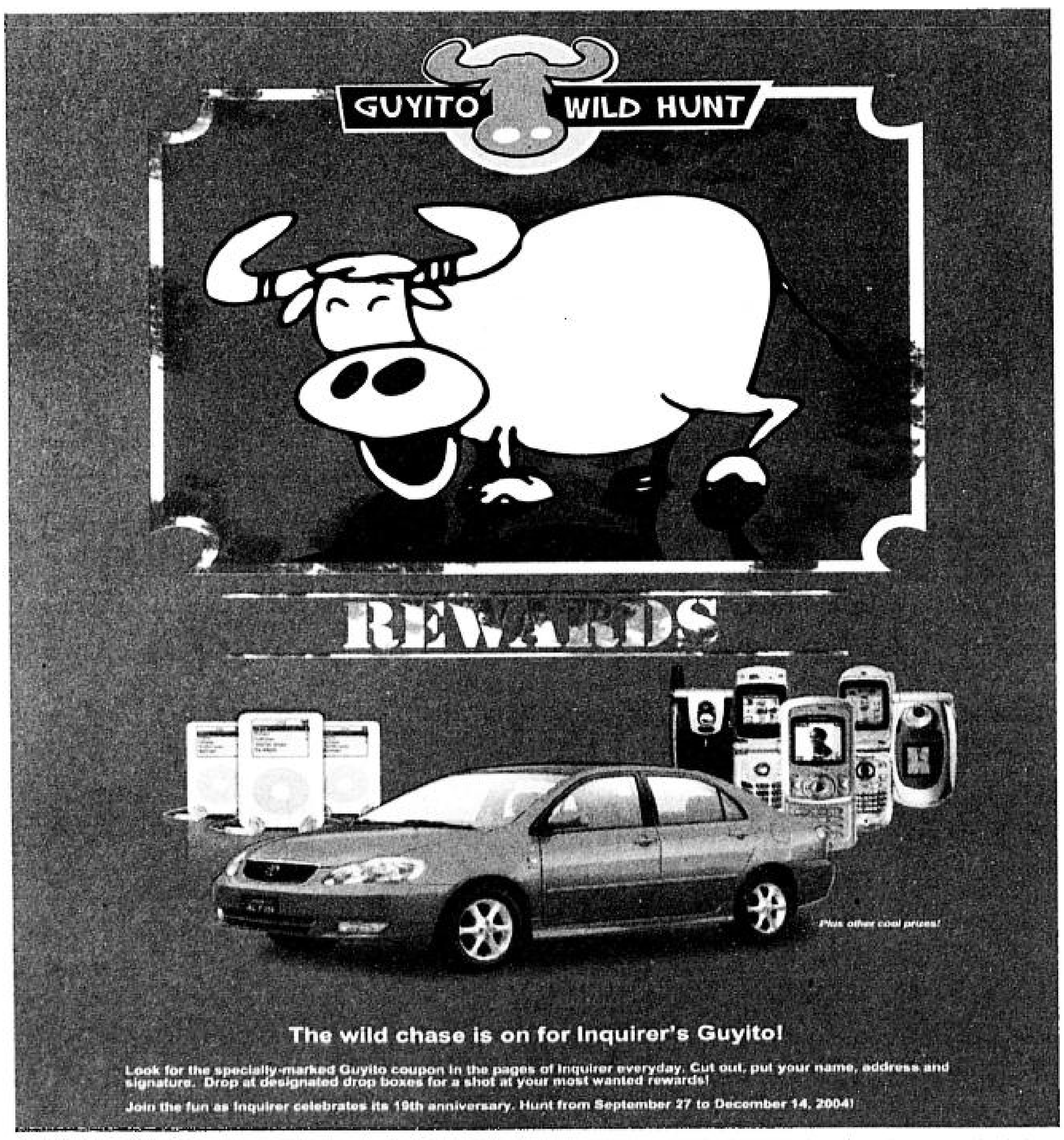
However, green tea alone had a further effect, obstructing the activity of beta-secretase, which has a role in producing protein deposits in the brain associated with Alzheimer's.

The effects of green tea also last for a week, scientists found, as against only a day for black tea.

"Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's, tea could potentially be another weapon in the armory which is used to treat this disease and slow down its development," said head researcher Dr. Ed Okello.

"Our findings are particularly exciting as tea is already a very popular drink, it is inexpensive, and there seem to be no adverse side effects when it is consumed," he said.

AFP



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Drink coffee for life?

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN A PRESS release from Johns Hopkins regarding their paper on caffeine withdrawal, Dr. Roland Griffiths mentioned that people could wean themselves from caffeine without suffering any ill effects. This could be done, he said, by slowly reducing the amount of caffeine ingested over time and eventually substituting them with noncaffeinated products.

As caffeine withdrawal is considered unproductive and unhealthy because it causes short tempers, headaches and nausea, it seems that avoiding caffeine altogether is the simplest solution. Yet in the August issue of the Journal of Pain, researchers from the University of Georgia showed that study participants who took a caffeine pill prior to exercising on a stationary cycle reported feeling less pain than those who took the placebo pill after 30 minutes.

Two weeks ago, researchers from the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Bristol in England began yet another study on how caffeine affects a person's overall well-being. Unlike many other studies, the Bristol study will involve a large population sample. Over the next few weeks, approximately 12,000 to 16,000 Britons will be sent questionnaires asking them how much coffee, tea or soda they drink and what effects, if any, drinking caffeinated and noncaffeinated beverages has on their health.

Based on the 70 studies Griffiths and Laura Juliano cited in their review paper, the Bristol study should at least show that when regularly ingested, caffeine is addictive.

Too much Coke?

The effects of caffeine on one's health, however, vary from person to person and from study to study.

Take the case study presented by David Mudge and David Johnson of the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Australia. In the Sept. 25 issue of The Lancet, Mudge and Johnson talk about an Australian farmer who hunted kangaroos, which are considered pests in that area.

Apparently the man drank four liters of Coke a day, and when hunting kangaroos, his daily intake nearly tripled to 10 liters. On one such hunt in 2002, he felt severe muscle weakness and was on a respirator before the night was over.

It turned out that his Coke habit was making him dehydrated. The caffeine in soda teamed up with the large amounts of sugar and very small amounts of potassium, causing a potassium imbalance known as hypokalemia.

Once he knew what caused his illness, the farmer began avoiding all soft drink and was last reported to be in good health.

Safe levels

So several liters of caffeinated beverages a day is bad for the body. But how much is safe?

In the Jan. 6 issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine, researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health and Brigham and Women's Hospital found that people who regularly drank coffee were less likely to become type 2 diabetics.

In fact, they found that men who drank over six cups of caffeinated coffee a day halved their risk for type 2 diabetes in comparison with men who didn't drink coffee. Women who drank caffeinated beverages lowered their risk of type 2 diabetes by 30 percent compared with those who went for noncaffeinated beverages.

Decaffeinated coffee drinkers were also at lower risk compared with noncoffee drinkers, although the numbers weren't as significant as in those who went for the caffeine.

Coffee for infants

The studies mentioned here suggest that whether or not one's health is improved by the addition of caffeine to the human body depends on the situation. For example, to one who was told that drinking coffee during childhood would stunt one's growth, it came as a surprise to learn that caffeine was being used in neonatal care units to treat infants who suffer from apnea, a condition that causes them to stop breathing for at least seven seconds before taking another breath.

In the June issue of the Journal of Applied Physiology, a team of researchers from the University Hospital Center Nord in France reported that caffeine could help babies keep breathing in their sleep by affecting the central nervous system, increasing the number of breaths and reducing the amount of oxygen ventilation. The exact biochemical mechanisms involved are not yet explained.

Will the babies grow up as prime candidates for caffeine withdrawal disorder after being exposed to caffeine so early in life? Will they be able to block pain longer as adults? Science has no definitive answers yet.

For now, just remember that it's OK to have that cup of coffee, as long as you don't empty the coffeepot all by yourself.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

EYE DONATION

Your dearly departed's gift to the living

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

WHAT could be a better legacy after one's death than giving another person—a child or an adult—the wonderful opportunity to set eyes on this world?

Almost anyone can donate his eyes after death. Contrary to popular misconception, an impaired vision caused by nearsightedness, farsightedness or astigmatism poses no problem for eye donation, says Dr. Dominga Padilla, president of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines.

The only contraindication to eye donation, she says, is if the dead donor has an infectious disease.

The manner of one's death—whether accidental or caused by a noncontagious disease like stroke, heart attack or cancer—poses no problem for eye donation.

Heroic act

Padilla says that while many Filipinos still have strong resistance when it comes to organ and tissue donation, convincing people to donate their departed loved ones' corneas has become easier.

"People are now more open to the idea of donating [to the Eye Bank]. We tell them that it can give sight to another person and that their deceased relative is actually leaving a legacy through his or her corneas," says Padilla.

"It's actually consoling to the family," adds Padilla, referring to the fulfillment that eye donation can give to a recently deceased's grieving relatives.

The doctor says eye donation can even be seen as "an act of heroism."

No disfigurement

The cornea and eye tissue are harvested within the first 12 hours of the donor's cardio-respiratory death, or after the person's heart and lungs have stopped working. The harvesting is done by a doctor or an Eye Bank technician in the morgue, before the body is embalmed.

Padilla gives an assurance that, contrary to popular belief, eye donation will cause no disfigurement on the deceased's features. The cornea is replaced with eye caps so the integrity of the eyeball is secured.

"Do you know that as many as 10 people can benefit if both eyeballs are donated?" Padilla asks this writer.

Padilla says the eyeball or the sclera, the white part of the eye, can be sectioned into quarters. So if a pair of eyeballs can produce eight parts of eye tissue plus two corneas, much good can be done to 10 people indeed.

Corneal blindness

The main beneficiaries of an eye donation are people who suffer from some sort of corneal blindness. According to the foundation there are around 300,000 to 400,000 Filipinos who have corneal blindness.

One of the top causes of corneal blindness is infectious and inflammatory eye conditions that affect the transparency of the cornea. Corneal diseases and disorders are brought about by bacterial, fungal or viral infections, hereditary diseases, eye injury such as penetration or scratching, and corneal exposure (when the cornea is deprived of the protection and rehydration of a blink, it will dry out, leading to clouding and severe loss of vision).

SURGEONS Dominga Padilla and Victor Lopez perform corneal transplant surgery on a patient.

AN EYE bank technician performs a corneal excision procedure.

Among children, corneal scarring is brought about by malnutrition, particularly vitamin A deficiency.

While there are irreversible cases of corneal blindness, there are also those that can be remedied by surgery.

According to Padilla, 300 people are in need of corneas at any given time. The usual waiting time by a patient for a donated cornea is four to six months. The foundation wants to reduce this to two months.

St. Lucy

The Eye Bank Foundation was established 10 years ago for those in need of eye and corneal transplants in the country. A year after, the foundation set up the Santa Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila at the second floor of the Makati Medical Center.

The state-of-the-art facility is aptly named after St. Lucy, the patron saint of vision.

That same year, the foundation was able to successfully push for the passage of Republic Act 7885, which aimed to improve the country's organ donation law by making best use of cornea and eye tissue retrieval and promoting corneal transplant in the Philippines. The law allows the Eye Bank to harvest corneas and eye tissue from deceased people in the possession of medico-legal officers of the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

While donors used to come from Metro Manila alone, the foundation is now tapping provincial hospitals such as those in Batangas and Pangasinan to be sources of prospective donors.

Celebrity donors

Padilla acknowledges that it helps when there is media coverage of the Eye Bank. Early this year, the attention of many people was turned to the Eye Bank after Ali Sotto, mother of the late actor Miko Sotto, decided to donate her son's corneas to the foundation.

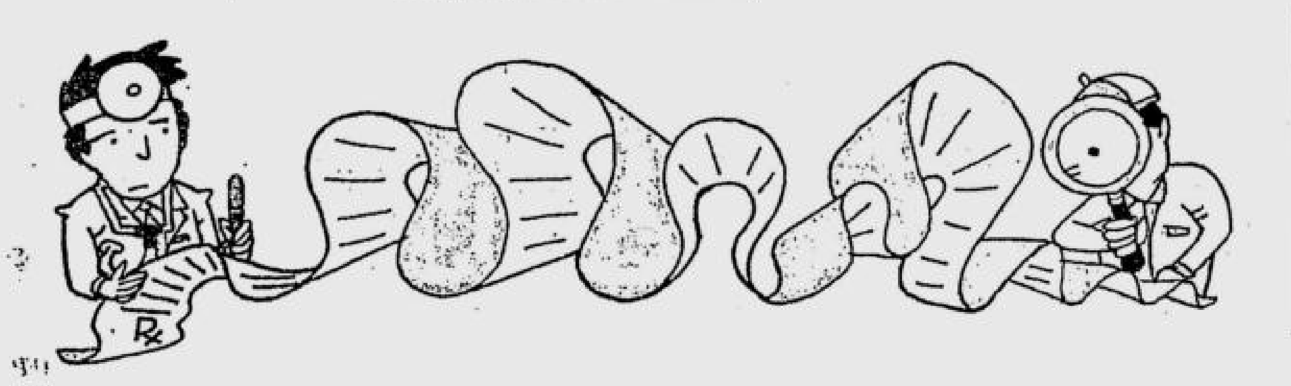
As a result, Padilla says, voluntary eye donation increased threefold.

Just recently, the Eye Bank was again thrust into the limelight when the corneas of police Supt. Manolo Martinez, who was slain in an ambush in Manila, were bequeathed to the institution.

The foundation needs to churn out P650,000 each month for its operations. But what is more important for the Eye Bank's physicians and staff is that they are able to make a difference in the lives of other people.

This month the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office decided to give the Eye Bank a monthly endowment of P100,000.

(The Eye Bank gives an organ donor card to a living person who wishes to donate his eyes after his death. For details, call the foundation at 893-5995 or e-mail eyebank@info.com.ph.)



Health technology assessment: it's worth it

MEDICAL FILES

WE'RE in an age of advanced technology that is, no doubt, a boon to the practice of medicine. Thanks to modern technology, every nook and junction of the body can now be evaluated by diagnostic exams. Some procedures, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), graphically point to any pathology as if the body had been cut open in minute sections.

While we rejoice at the availability of these modern procedures, some consider it lamentable when these are requested improperly. In medicine, even excellent drugs and laboratory procedures are meaningless and become a big waste of money if used on the wrong patient or for the wrong indication. Hence, the emergence of health technology assessment, or HTA.

HTA is the process of systematically reviewing existing clinical data and providing an evaluation of the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and impact of medical technology and its use on the patient and on the health care system.

Health care technology includes drugs, devices, medical and surgical procedures and the organizational and managerial systems within which such care is provided.

HTA data can come in handy when assessing expensive procedures and therapies and health technologies with questionable efficacy or significant side effects. HTA is a useful tool in influencing quality assurance and cost containment.

PhilHealth unit

In 1999, the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) established an HTA unit, which aimed to deliver high-quality patient experience by ensuring satisfying care by health providers. It requires accredited hospitals to utilize only effective and appropriate medical and surgical interventions.

The National Health Insurance Act (Republic Act 7875) also requires accredited providers to participate in HTA.

PhilHealth carries out HTA in assessing which drugs and devices it should reimburse, in appraising, adopting and disseminating clinical practice guidelines developed by local medical societies for review of reimbursement claims and monitoring the performance of accredited health care providers, and in evaluating the effectiveness and safety of medical and surgical procedures.

The PhilHealth HTA unit has also been tasked to help develop national price ceilings, quality assurance programs, community-based interventions and outpatient benefit packages.

Assessing technologies

From Nov. 25 to 27, PhilHealth and other agencies will spearhead the 3rd Asian Regional Health Technology Assessment Conference at the Century Park Hotel in Manila. The forum aims to bring international experience to address Asian issues in assessing upcoming and currently used health technologies.

A preconference workshop has been designed to develop skills on evidence-based drug selection, promote adherence to treatment guidelines and monitor drug use and adverse drug events. A post-conference workshop on cost-effectiveness analysis of drugs and formal assessment of devices will also be held.

Plenary sessions will feature local and international speakers on crafting of policies on the effectiveness and utilization of drugs, drug assessment methods that have been integrated into policies, policy framework for managing health devices, and methods for formal assessment of health devices.

Other agencies involved in the conference are the Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau of the Department of Health, the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, and the Foundation for the Advancement of Clinical Epidemiology Inc.

For inquiries on the conference, contact Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go (hartigan@zuelligfoundation.org) or Clementine Almario (htaforum@philhealth.gov.ph).

Zamboanga and Bohol gold

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IS there gold in Zamboanga? The Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development (PCIERD) is betting on it. In fact, local and foreign firms are reportedly exploring the area. Their target: gold-porphyry and copper deposits.

But PCIERD says knowledge about the region's basic geology is very scant due to limited, inconsistent and outdated information, much of which is more than 50 years old.

PCIERD, the National Institute of Geological Sciences, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Region 10, and Philex Mining Corp. spearheaded last year a P1.3-million project to confront these problems.

Their efforts have borne fruit, as Rodel Offemaria of the Science and Technology Media Service reports: "Mineral deposits found so far in the Zamboanga Peninsula include gold and base metal associated with hydro-thermal activity in a young volcanic rock sequence exposed in Sibutad, Zamboanga del Norte.

"In the Malusok area..., there is 'older gold mineralization associated with metamorphic rock' while base-metal deposit 'associated with a sequence of sedimentary and volcanic rocks deposited in shallow marine environment' is found in Zamboanga City's Ayala district. Industrial minerals such as clay, bentonite and zeolite also abound in the peninsula.

"The project could add Zamboanga to the list of known mining districts in the country such as Baguio, Zambales, Bicol, Masbate and Eastern Mindanao.

Major minerals

"The major minerals in the Philippines are iron, manganese, phosphorous, coal, copper and gold. Mineral reserves are valued at a huge $964.65 billion, dominated by nonmetallic ($798.69 billion).

"The country produced P13.76 billion worth of gold in 2000 followed by copper concentrate (P2.37 billion), nickel (P1.14 billion), and silver (P158.11 million).

"The leading nonmetallic minerals output include sand and gravel (P5.63 billion), salt (P3.89 billion), limestone (P1.32 billion) and coal (P1.22 billion)."

Strategic location

PCIERD found that Bohol has gold and copper, too. Because of Bohol's strategic location in the Visayan basin, where tectonic plates move against each other, certain characteristic sediments are found there.

According to Offemaria, "Bohol became the subject of a geologic study because of its lithological [rocks present] and structural heterogeneity along with the neighboring islands of Masbate, Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Negros and Panay.

"The boundaries between tectonic blocks in the Philippine Islands' arc system are critical in understanding the individual islands and how these contribute to the geologic makeup of the archipelago. The distribution of ophiolite [rock] complexes and capping sedimentary units in central Philippines can be traced to a history of progressive series of rock formations related to subduction events."

Bataan, Romblon studies

Similar studies are being done in Bagac, Bataan.

"Geological studies in the area showed good prospects for gold and silver mineralization. Its preserved paleosurface [old surface] mainly provides a guide in the quest for buried mineral deposits."

Still another study is being conducted in the collision zone in Romblon, Tablas and Sibuyan that not only attempts to determine the causes of collision, but also to inventory possible mineral deposits.

It seems that this time we may have literally struck gold.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

MSD launches asthma medicine for infants

A NEW, convenient oral granules formulation of the popular asthma medication montelukast may help relieve the daily stress parents face in treating infants and young children with asthma. This was announced by Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) during a scientific symposium with doctors held recently at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

Montelukast Oral Granules is indicated for pediatric patients 6 months of age and older for the prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma, including the prevention of day- and nighttime symptoms, the treatment of aspirin-sensitive asthmatic patients and the prevention of exercise-induced bronchoconstriction.

Unique formulation

The new formulation represents the first nonsteroidal, once-daily oral asthma controller available for children as young as 6 months.

Montelukast Oral Granules can be given alone or mixed with a spoonful of cold or room temperature soft food (e.g. applesauce). The unique formulation has no distinct taste and comes in convenient, single-use packets.

"Until now, the choice I had for treating asthma in very young children was an inhaled corticosteroid administered either through a spacer device or a nebulizer machine, which can be quite a challenge for parents to administer to their children several times a day," said Dr. Arnel Q. Jiao, treasurer of the Philippine Academy of Pediatric Pulmonologists Inc., and head, Section of Pulmonology, Philippine Children's Medical Center. "Now that montelukast is available in an oral granules formulation, I have an easy-to-use option that can be spoon fed to children once-a-day."

"This is a clear benefit for both children and their parents," he said.

"Asthma is a chronic illness that must be treated on a consistent basis," said Dr. Madeleine W. Sumpaico, president of the Philippine Society of Asthma, Allergology and Immunology (PSAAI), and head of Allergology Section, UP-Philippine General Hospital.

Said Dr. Sumpaico: "My priority in treating a child with asthma is to prevent the occurrence of asthma attacks. With the launch of the once-a-day montelukast Oral Granules, doctors now have a new treatment option which is an easy-to-administer option for many asthma patients. This new formulation certainly broadens the choices for treating young children with asthma."

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

First dental visit

WHEN should a child first see a dentist?—Hazel L.

A child can visit the dentist as soon as he starts brushing his teeth, and preferably when he allows another person to brush his teeth for him.

The child's first visit should be fun and easy so I suggest that the child first accompany the parent for the parent's prophylaxis or cleaning before his own appointment. This way, the child is already accustomed to the dental clinic when it is his turn to see the dentist.

E-mail questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

Passion

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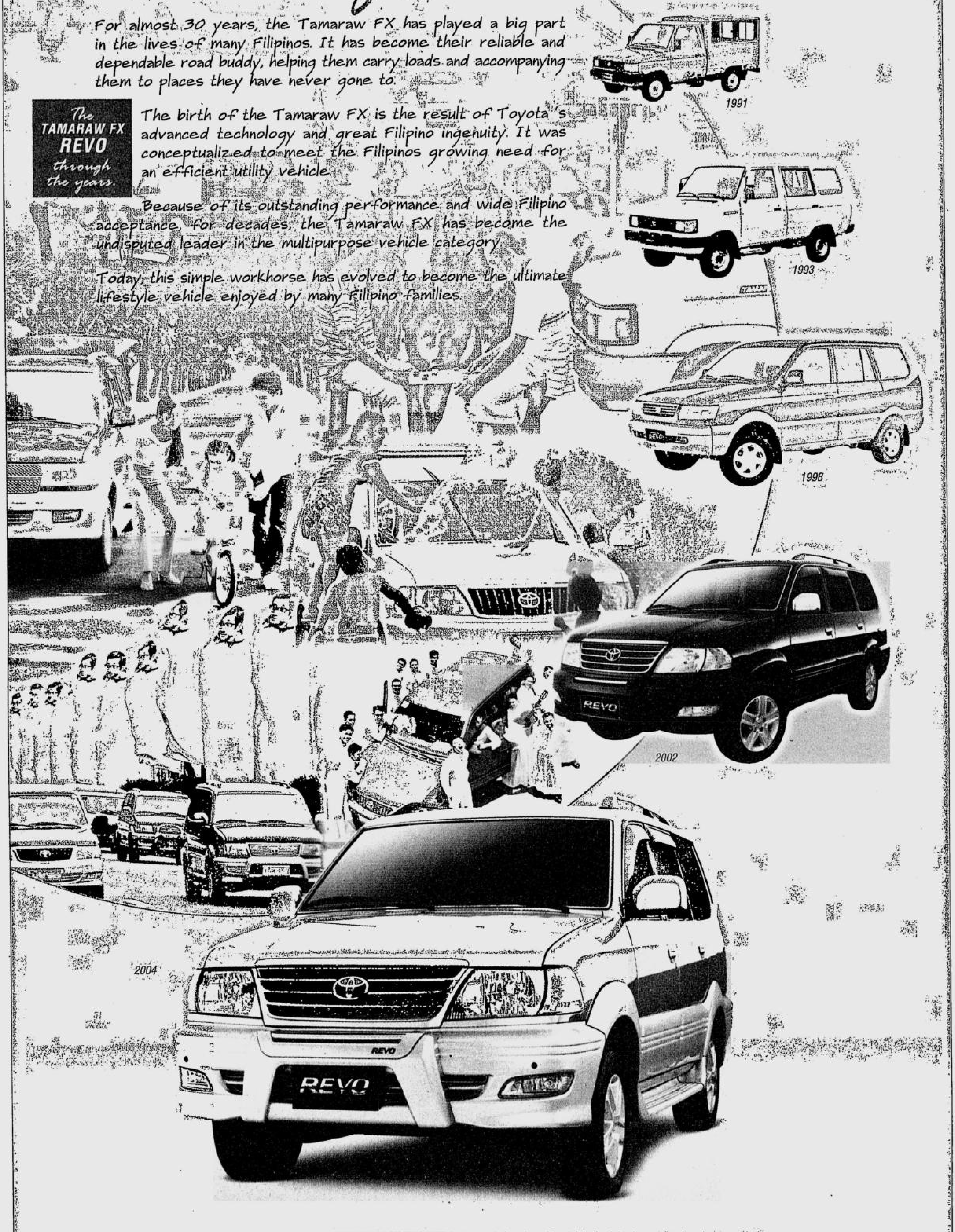

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TOYOTA

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Tomorrow's homes will be much safer

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

IT SEEMS almost a given these days that once a homeowner leaves the house, that person is always out of the loop and any event that took place at home could only be discovered upon his return.

What if something untoward happened while the homeowner is away?

"Nowhere should homeowners feel safer and more secure than within their homes—even when they're not actually there," said Katsumi Takahashi of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. in the recently concluded Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies (Ceatec) Japan 2004 held at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, just outside Tokyo.

He believes cellular telephones can alleviate a portion of that disconnect, but the convergence of security systems and the Internet must happen first to put homeowners back in charge of their homes.

Not yet affordable

A 24-hour monitoring service is standard for nearly all of today's modern security systems.

But Takahashi admitted that although there are technologies available in the market today, they are not yet within the reach of ordinary homeowners.

He said the goal of manufacturers these days is to simplify the system, bring down the cost and make it attractive to the market.

"In this year's Ceatec event, we want to show the public that we are very close to achieving that goal," announced Takahashi.

With the arrival of networking and broadband in the home, one thing has become crystal clear at the recent Ceatec event: The future digital home will have even better connections and devices, and will serve its owners in new and fascinating ways—especially in home security.

Convergence

By converging security monitoring with Internet access, companies could provide next-level services to homeowners.

Experts agree that wireless technology is the key enabler that one will find in homes a few years from now.

"An always-on home Internet connection will allow the homeowner to access the cameras and view their images from any Web-enabled device, for example, their office PC or mobile phone. Or perhaps the plumber has called the homeowner's work phone to say he's at the house but the front door is locked," he described.

A CHILD can even wear a toy-like device that sends signal or alarm to household members.

From the office PC or mobile phone, the homeowner can log on to the camera's internal Web page, enter a security password and access the camera positioned at the front door to verify the visitor's identity.

"These are just some of the possibilities that will soon be made available to all of us," Takahashi said.

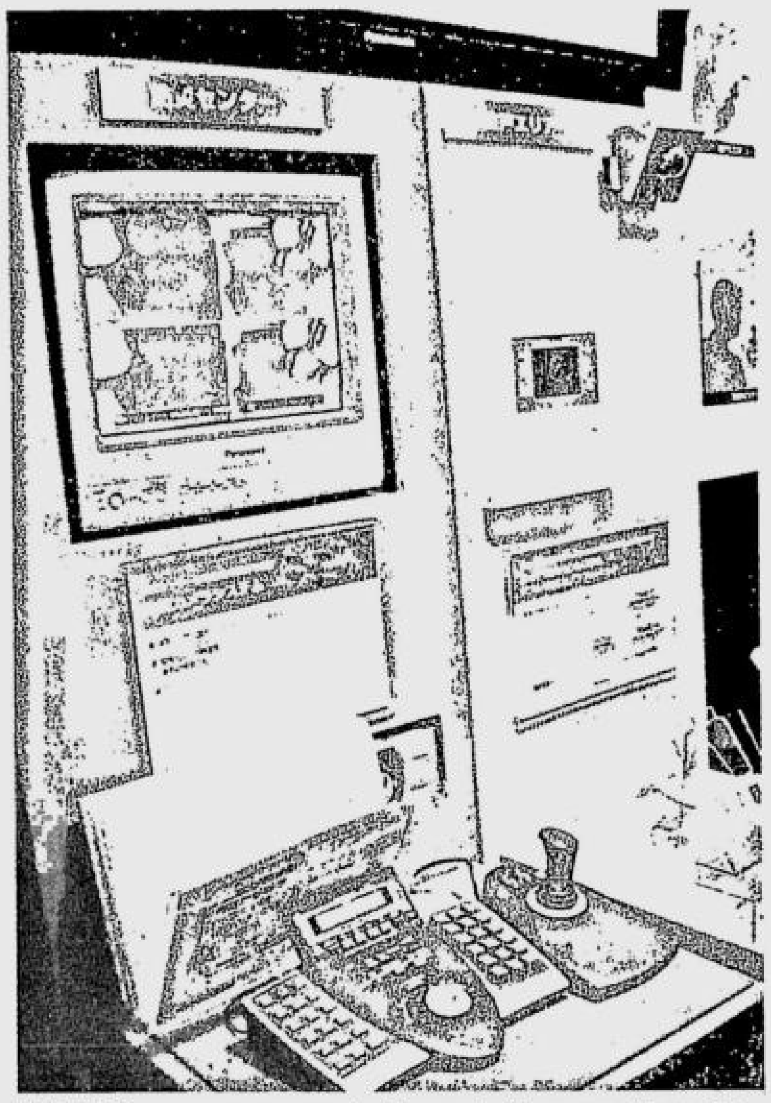
Video surveillance

Interactive video surveillance technology will bring management of the home's security system into the hands of the homeowner.

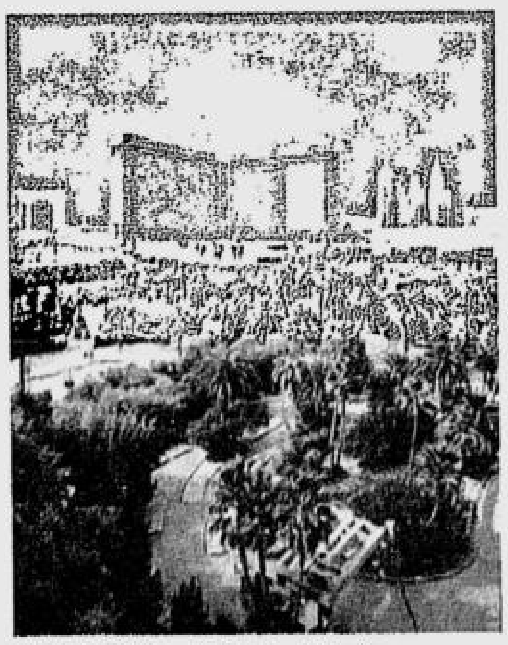
"Soon Internet cameras positioned in and around the house will be used to observe the protected property," Takahashi said.

These cameras will project images that can be viewed on a personal computer one-by-one, or split-screen to view more than one camera at once.

"The network of cameras can be used to allow the homeowner, wherever they may be, to keep tabs on their children and pets or check who is knocking at the front door," Takahashi said.



FUTURE homeowners can control the angle of cameras at home by using the control stick or knob.



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Absolutely grand

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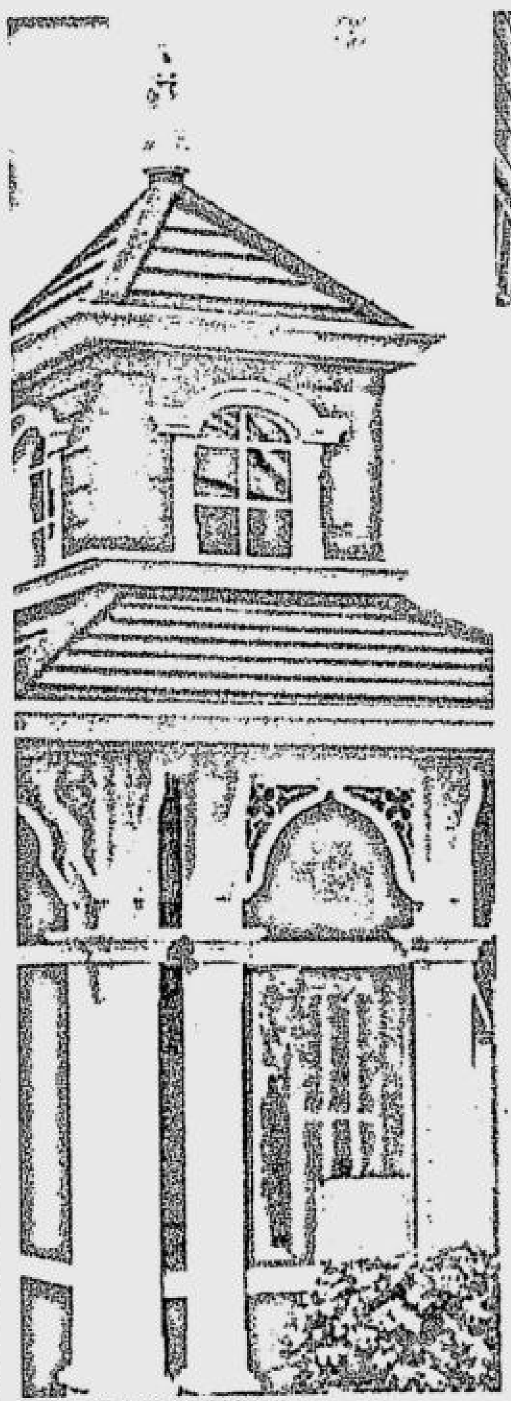
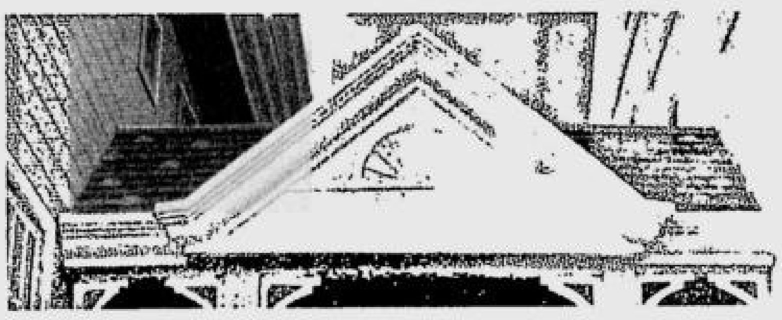
THE MGM Grand Hotel and Casino is listed as the world's largest hotel. Located in Las Vegas, Nevada, it consists of four 30-story, 280-ft high towers on a 45.3-hectare land.

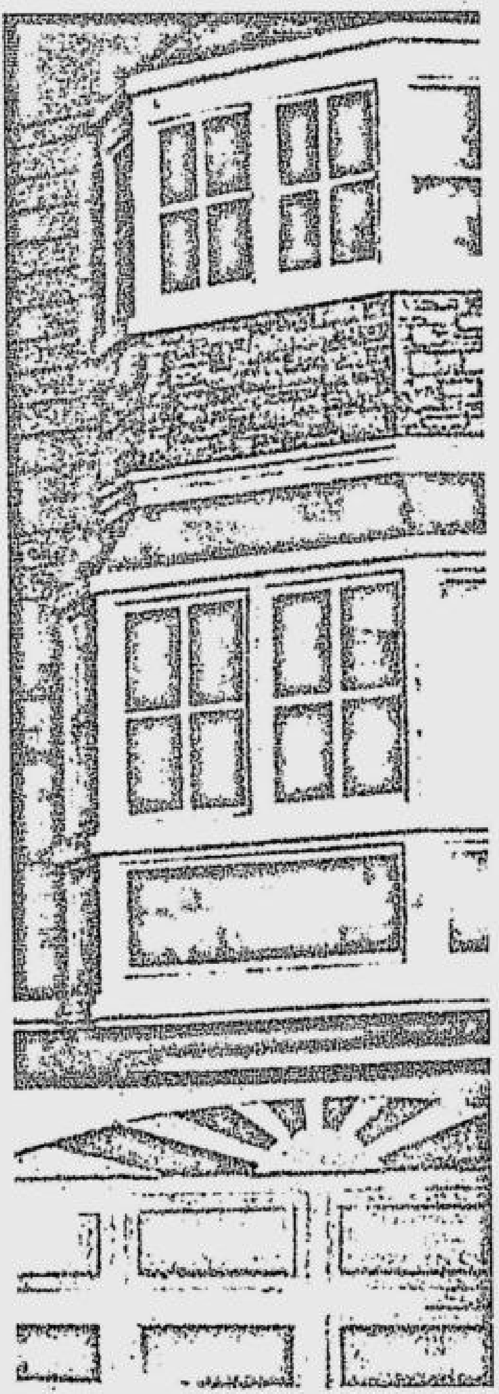
The mammoth hotel has 5,034 rooms, including 751 suites which measure up to 500 square meters. It has a spa with a relaxation lounge, steam rooms, saunas and whirlpools; a salon; a grand pool complex composed of five swimming pools, three large whirlpools, a river pool, fountains and waterfalls; a wedding chapel; and shopping outlets.

Other facilities include a 15,200-seat arena, a 13.3-hectare theme park and a gaming area measuring more than 170,000 sq ft. If you still cannot im[illegible] how expansive this hotel is, put toge[illegible] dozen of our very own Manila Hotel and you've got the vastness of the MGM Grand, a hotel which truly lives up to its name.

Dianne M. Villafuerte







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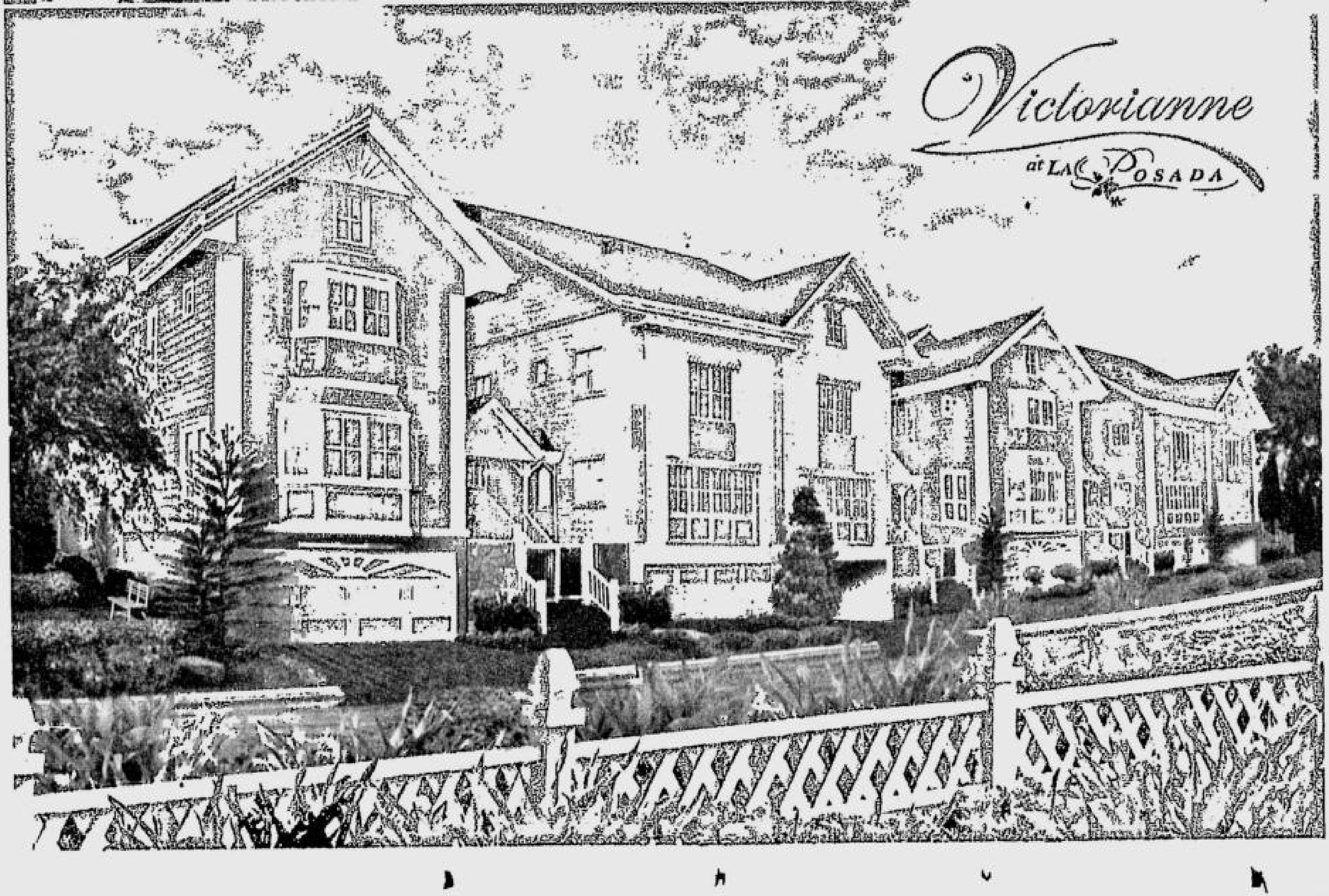


Is your home energy-efficient?

By Amado P. de Jesus Jr.

BIO-SOLAR Home from Thailand is one of the winning entries in the latest Asean Energy Awards. It has the following features: photo-voltaic cells, making it independent from any power grid; a rainwater harvesting system; and bio-gas for cooking.

IN ABOUT 40 or 50 years, our oil supply will be gone. This is the prediction of some experts, who claim that at the present rate of consumption this scenario would be inevitable. However, there are some who disagree. They say that we are not running out of oil, but that we are running out of cheap oil.

Oil is a nonrenewable resource. It cannot be replenished, over a short time frame. This is why it is imperative that we conserve it and use it efficiently. The alternative energy source would be renewable energy such as wind or solar power.

The impending scarcity of oil in the near future has prompted the development of a new breed of buildings and homes that are "green" or energy efficient. These are structures that use up less energy for their maintenance and operation, allowing them to contribute to the efforts to minimize the consumption of oil, the primary fuel source of the world.

What is energy-efficiency?

Strictly speaking it means maximizing output from a unit input of energy. In simpler terms it means lighting or cooling a given area longer using one kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity. One could also think of it as getting a car to travel farther using the same amount of fuel.

COMMENTARY

The emerging trend in the development of energy-efficient buildings and homes is very aptly called "green architecture."

Basic considerations

And in green architecture, these are several of the basic considerations for a building to be energy-efficient:

- **Site considerations.** Locating the building among existing landscaping and surrounding shade-providing trees helps create a natural buffer against heat as well as keep cooling costs down.
- **Building orientation.** For all types of buildings, in different climate zones, orienting the building with minimal exposure to the east-west orientation is best. East- and west-facing windows are less desired because it is directly exposed to high temperatures due to the sun's position throughout the day.

From the standpoint of minimizing air-conditioning loads and increasing occupant comfort, south-facing windows are much better than either east- or west-facing windows.

In residential and small commercial buildings where solar heat is not wanted particularly in the warm summer season, south-facing windows with overhang to shade the summer sun is best.

- **Green building systems.** Green buildings rely on solar collectors to gather heat or produce electricity (through photovoltaic collectors). A storage medium (usually water for the thermal system, batteries or the electric utility for electric systems) is employed to have access to the energy when needed. Solar thermal systems are used for space heating, domestic water heating, and pool heating.

Other energy-efficient features

A roof overhang shading system is very effective in lessening heat with its horizontal projections at south-facing windows and horizontal and vertical projections at east- and west-facing windows. Interior blinds are much less effective.

For large buildings, energy-efficient air-conditioning systems include variable speed supply fans and raised floor air distribution systems.

- **Lighting system.** Efficient lighting systems include automatic controls (e.g. motion sensors) to regulate the lighting systems' operation and energy-efficient lighting (e.g. compact fluorescent lamps and electronic ballasts) which provides the same wattage of lighting while using less energy.
- **Operable windows.** Operable windows (as opposed to fixed windows), for commercial buildings are very effective especially if cross ventilation can be achieved.

Many green buildings today integrate window operation with the air-conditioning system controls by use of sensors or automatic detectors.

A well-ventilated building can also mean less chance for occupants to acquire Legionnaire's Disease, a respiratory virus found inside poorly ventilated rooms.

- **Thermal insulation.** In this country, insulation is normally placed below the roofing to reduce heat. There are many types of this insulating material available. These insulating materials are classified according to their ability to resist heat, so it is important to select the products that will insulate our buildings the best.
- **Water.** By simply installing low-flow faucets, showerheads and toilets, your household can easily save hundreds of liters of water every year.

Benefits

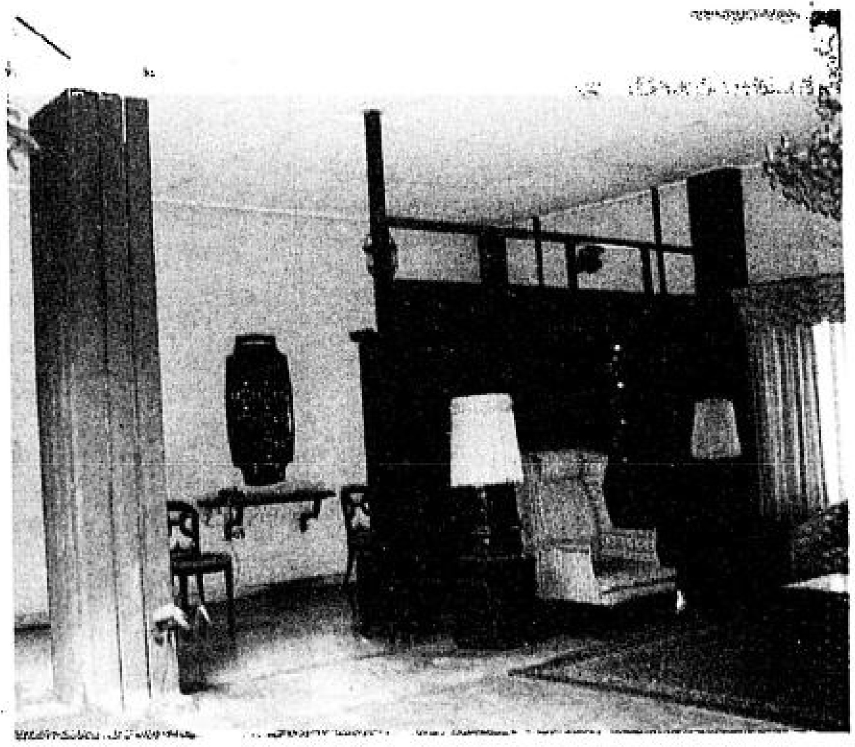
Energy-efficient homes and buildings could save hundreds, maybe thousands of pesos, each year.

When you put more time and effort into incorporating these design elements into your buildings, you reap countless benefits from having an environment-friendly home that offers greater comfort at lower maintenance and inevitably, higher resale value.

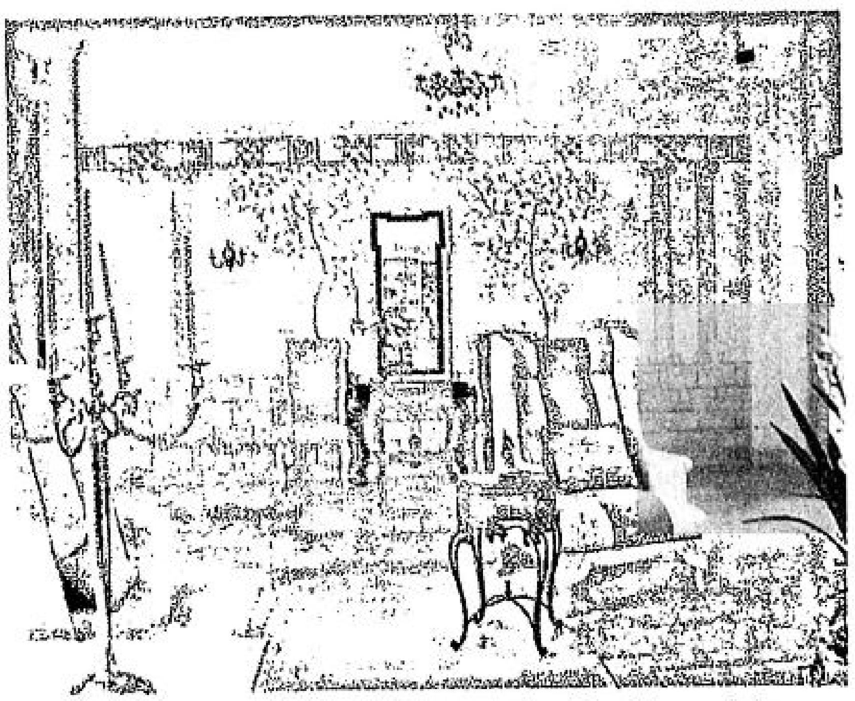
(The author is the principal architect of A.P. De Jesus & Associates—Green Architecture. He is also vice chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards and the founding chair of the Green Architecture Movement of UAP. For comments or inquiries, e-mail archadejesus@yahoo.com.)

The great makeover: A step-by-step approach on renovation

By Pinky B. Cruz



BEFORE. A 1960s house with exquisite period pieces that scream for a makeover.



AFTER. Opening up the space, updating the look, adding flair to existing pieces and voila! You get a great Italian job!

"I'D rather start on a new house than do a makeover!" That's the usual argument for dismissing a makeover. The cynics are partly right. Renovation entails hidden costs. You begin to fix the leaking ceiling and suddenly find out that your roof shingles needs repair too. You notice your windows need new sealant, and the next thing you know, the walls are affected by stains so you'd better have it painted as well. And so it wouldn't surprise me to hear stories that begin with a simple repair of a roof leak and end up in a full-blown makeover. Needless to say, it's hard work.

COMMENTARY

Start over or make over?

But despite the unwelcome surprises, giving your house a facelift is a far better option than enduring a stale, inflexible, outdated shelter. Our houses are not just structures; they carry a collection of our special memories and reminders of our life journey's milestones. Allowing our houses to reflect the changes such journey brings, gives soul to our dwelling places.

Doing a house makeover also makes economic sense. Do you know that more people are into improving their existing homes rather than finding or moving into a new one? Because, let's face it, everything considered, improving on it is more cost-efficient on most occasions.

So we embark on the challenge. First, because our tastes and even lifestyle change. One decides to convert an attic into a home office or perhaps add a pocket garden in view of your dining to respond to an upgrade in living. Or when two retired couples transform their son's vacant room to a ballroom space, thereby accommodating their new passion. Secondly, what designers term as retrofit, as when one upgrades a part of the house like windows, to answer energy efficiency or ventilation issues. Lastly, just the basic maintenance for the wear and tear of the house, like fixing the plumbing lines that cause the faucet to leak. This is more for protecting the investments you already made. And yes, it's like a car that needs a tune-up or change of oil every now and then.

Before the plunge

Here's a common mistake that costs people more than what they bargained for: Just leave it to the professionals. I don't discount the great savings you can get by hiring the right people, but a lot of homework should come from you to ensure success.

Below is a checklist you need to do first:

- **Create your own scrapbook of ideas.**

I am a sucker for anything visual. Anything that captures my thoughts and inspirations, say clippings, photos, or even an object that triggers the flow of ideas, I place them in a scrapbook. You would be amazed at the tremendous impact of this personal collection on communicating what you want to your designer or contractor. Go and explore the world of designers, too, in search of new concepts. Attend trade exhibits and expositions. You'd be surprised at the wealth of materials and new products available on yet unexplored territories.

- **Establish your priorities.**

Here's what will make your life easier—by making a list of major tasks you are willing to undertake, and sticking to it. Consider first the functionality before the esthetics. Basic utilities of the house like ventilation, privacy and soundproofing need attention first before the fabrics and tile patterns.

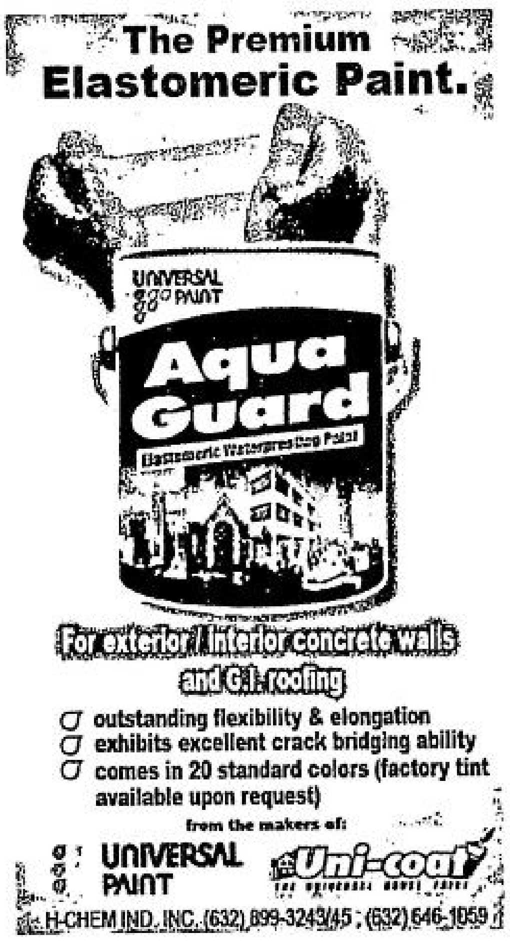
- **Do your math.**

As I said, renovation covers hidden expense. A venture as bold and exciting as a makeover may turn out to be a nightmare if you don't count the costs. If you can't handle it with your savings, then ask your bank for financing or your company for loans. You may also get quotations from two reputable contractors to verify costs. But remember, look for satisfied customers before awarding the contract.

- **Enjoy the process.**

Well, I can never overemphasize this. Don't get lost in the details. The process of doing the makeover is as fun as seeing the finished product. In fact, you must love to live with the mess for sometime until you see the fruits of your labor. C'est la vie!

(For comments or suggestions, please e-mail at pinkycruz@creativepost.com.ph)



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Driving negative vibes away

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

THE PREVIOUS week, we featured some guidelines in choosing the most suitable location for your property.

In addition to those tips, James Lee, in his book "Appreciate Feng Shui in Daily Life," advises property buyers to also gather information about the history of the prospective land first. Negative vibes might still be present on that property and this will affect the new residents of the property, including their health and fortune.

FENG SHUI

In Merlina Merton's "Feng Shui for Better Living," property buyers are discouraged from acquiring former sites of cemeteries, funeral parlors, slaughterhouses, hospitals, churches or temples and police stations. This is because depressing and harmful feelings may still be lingering on the said pieces of property.

However, there are some houses and buildings which naturally attract spirits, ghosts and elementals. Merton attributes this to the particular design and layout of the house or building. The property's topography, water placements and orientation are very much considered in analyzing whether or not it is haunted.

Merton listed some house layouts which may give easy access to these entities:

- **Windowless rooms and bedrooms located in the basement.** Rooms that are not provided with natural light and air will build up yin chi. Dark and airless rooms in the house will most likely attract ghosts and spirits.
- **A mirror in front of the bed.** Mirrors serve as doorways to lower life-forms. If the mirror cannot be moved, Merton advises the room's occupant to cover the mirror before sleeping. Putting mirrors inside the bedroom is also discouraged, except if it is inside the closet.
- **A toilet door facing the bed.** The toilet's yin chi may seep into the bed's energy field. This makes the occupant exposed to illnesses and spirit possession.
- **A big tree right outside a window.** Elementals can use big trees as a way in to the occupant's house when these are located just outside a house's window.

Easy solutions

Merton likewise suggests easy solutions if your house or property have any of the above feng shui violations:

- For windowless rooms, the occupants are advised to always leave a light on inside the room. A low wattage bulb will do. It is also important to keep the room well-ventilated so the door to the room should always be left open. If the air is air-conditioned, the air-conditioner's filter should always be kept clean. If it is a bedroom, it is best for the occupants to just keep the mirrors inside the closet.
- For tall trees just outside the window of the room, the tree branches that touch the house should be pruned.
- If the toilet door faces your bed, relocate the bed away from the toilet area and put an automatic closer on the toilet door. The toilet's seat cover should also be kept down at all times and place a small bowl of salt with a little water beneath the toilet bowl.

The yin chi of an unoccupied house or building facing the door of your own property may also make for your own. If this is the case, you should place a *ba-gua* or a convex mirror over the door and put venetian blinds on the windows also facing the unoccupied house to block the view and turn away the yin chi.

- If you are moving into a house or building that has been unoccupied for a long period of time and which may have already been resided in by entities and elementals, Merton suggests you fill the house with lots of noisy human activity.

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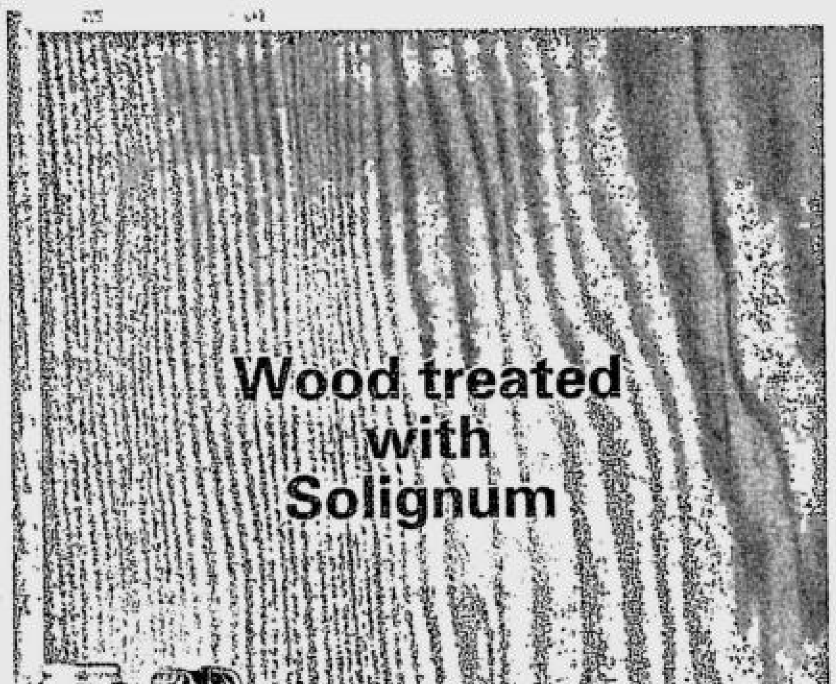

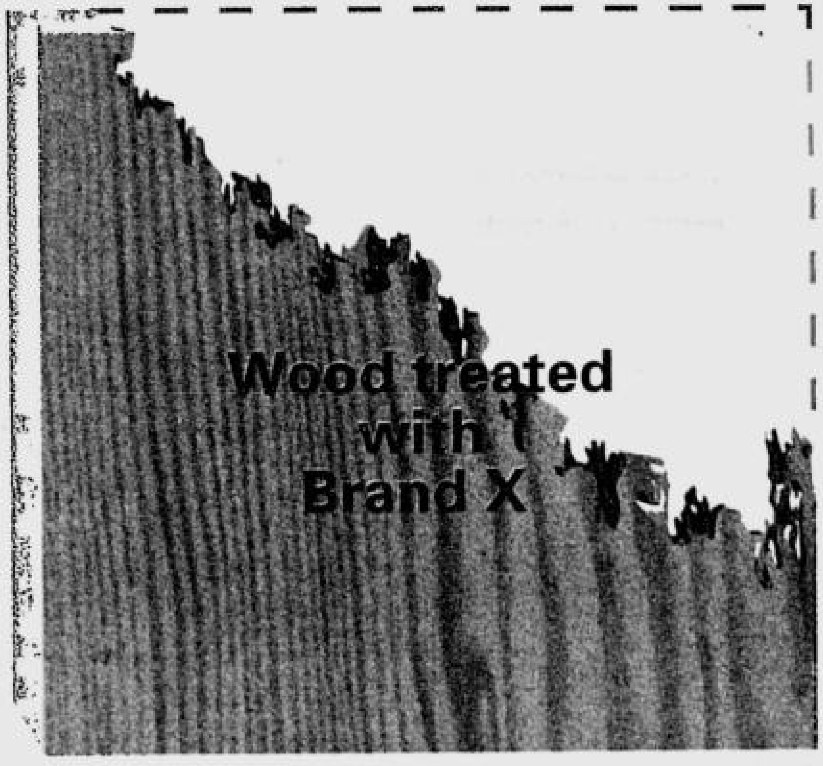

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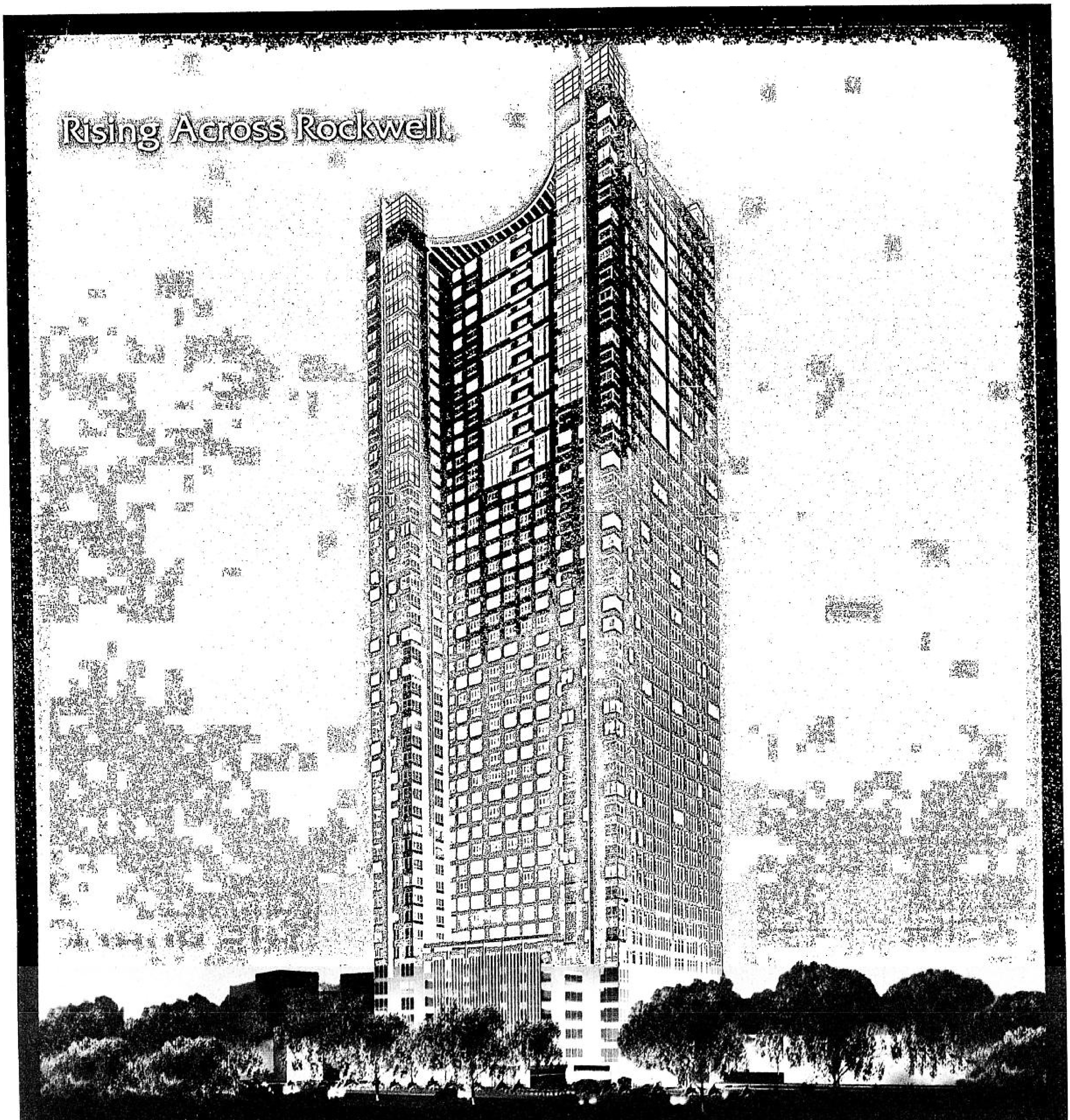

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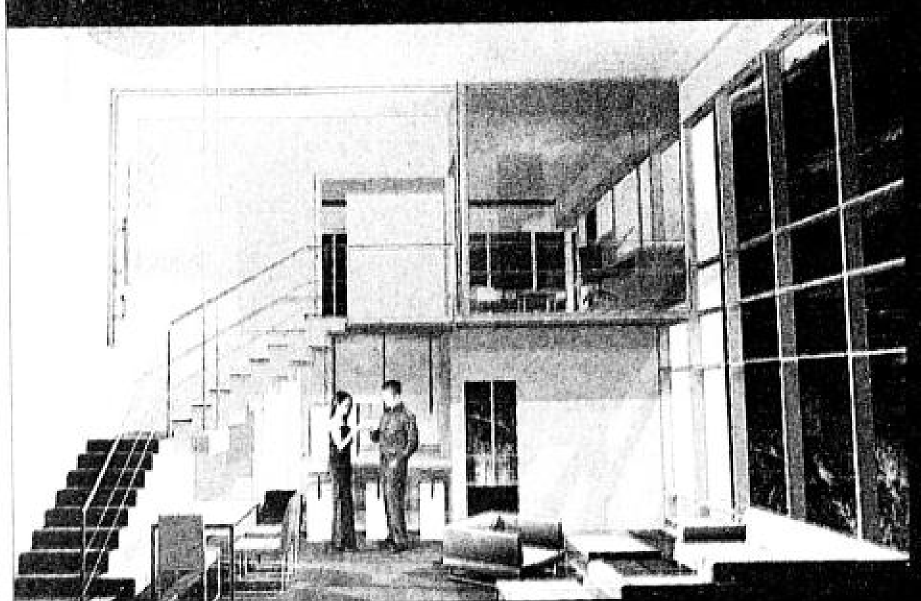

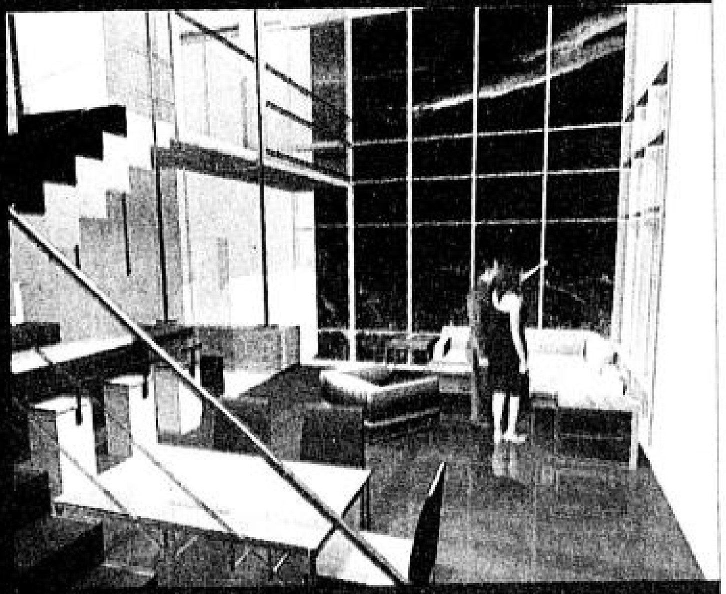

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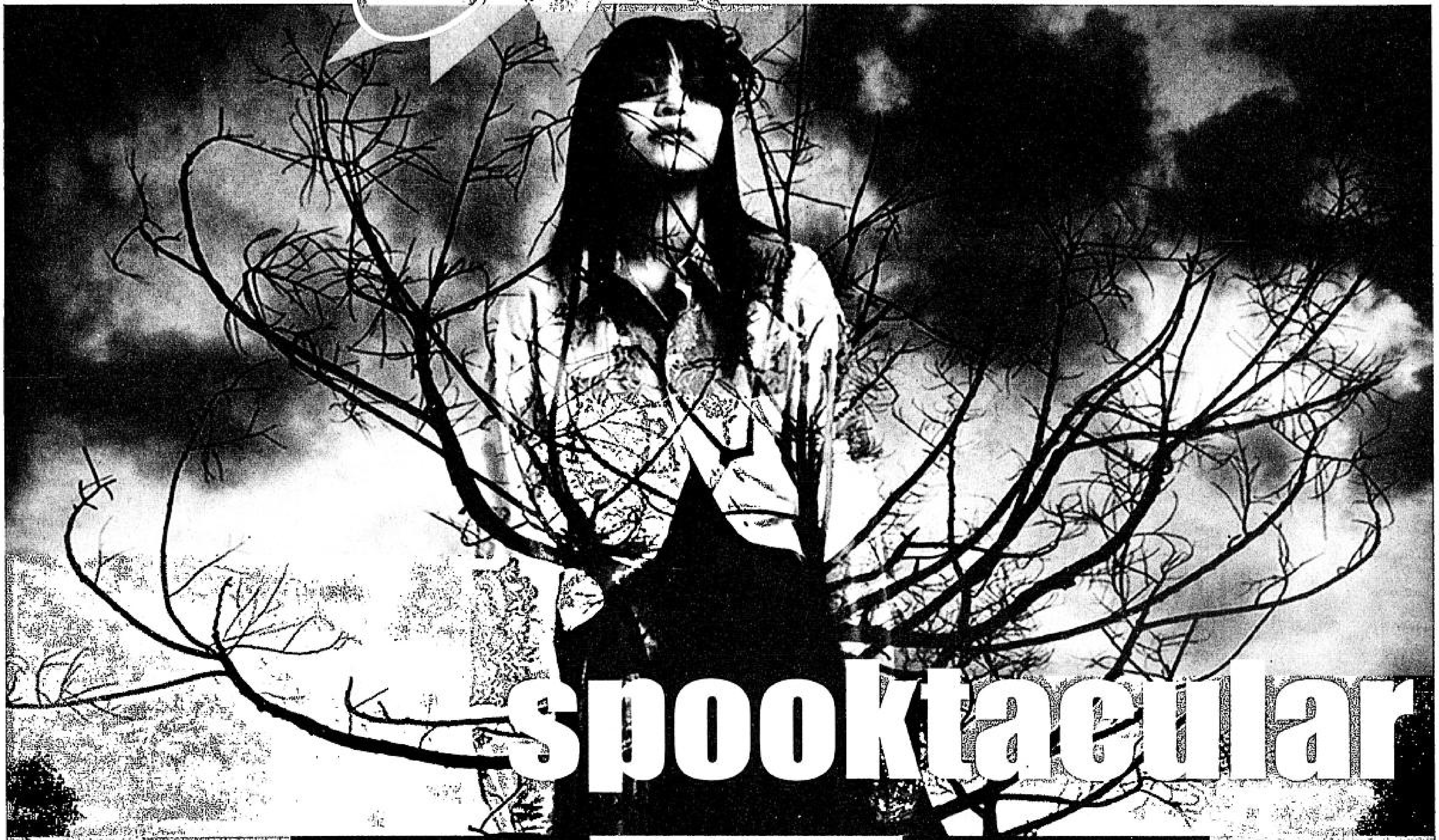

spooktacular

Monique Wilson's new Cabaret page C3

Be Eddie Gil this Halloween! page E2

The terrifying trio of Johnny, Tessa and Anton page G1

WHO IS HE? page G2
Introducing Matteo Guidicelli

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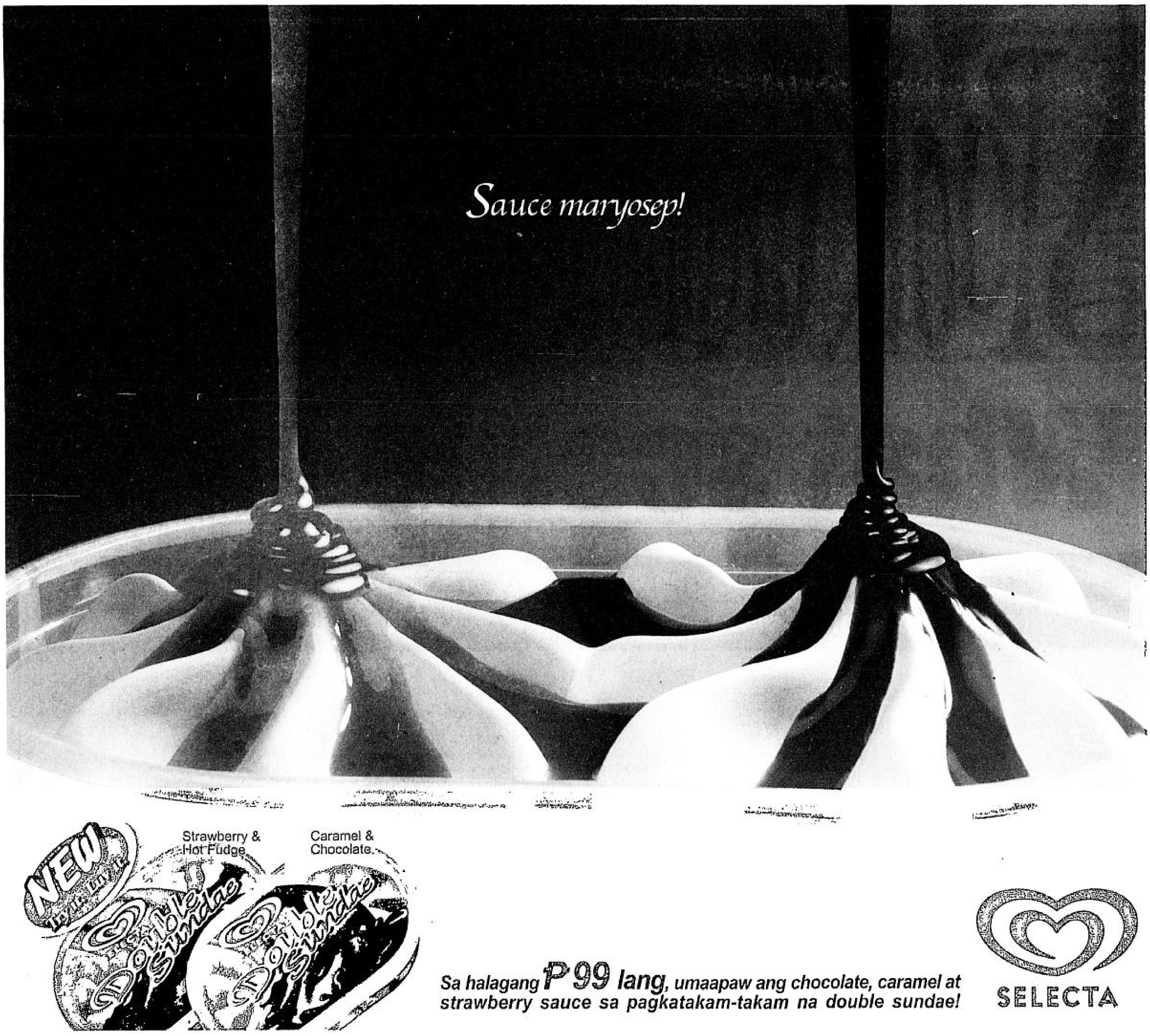

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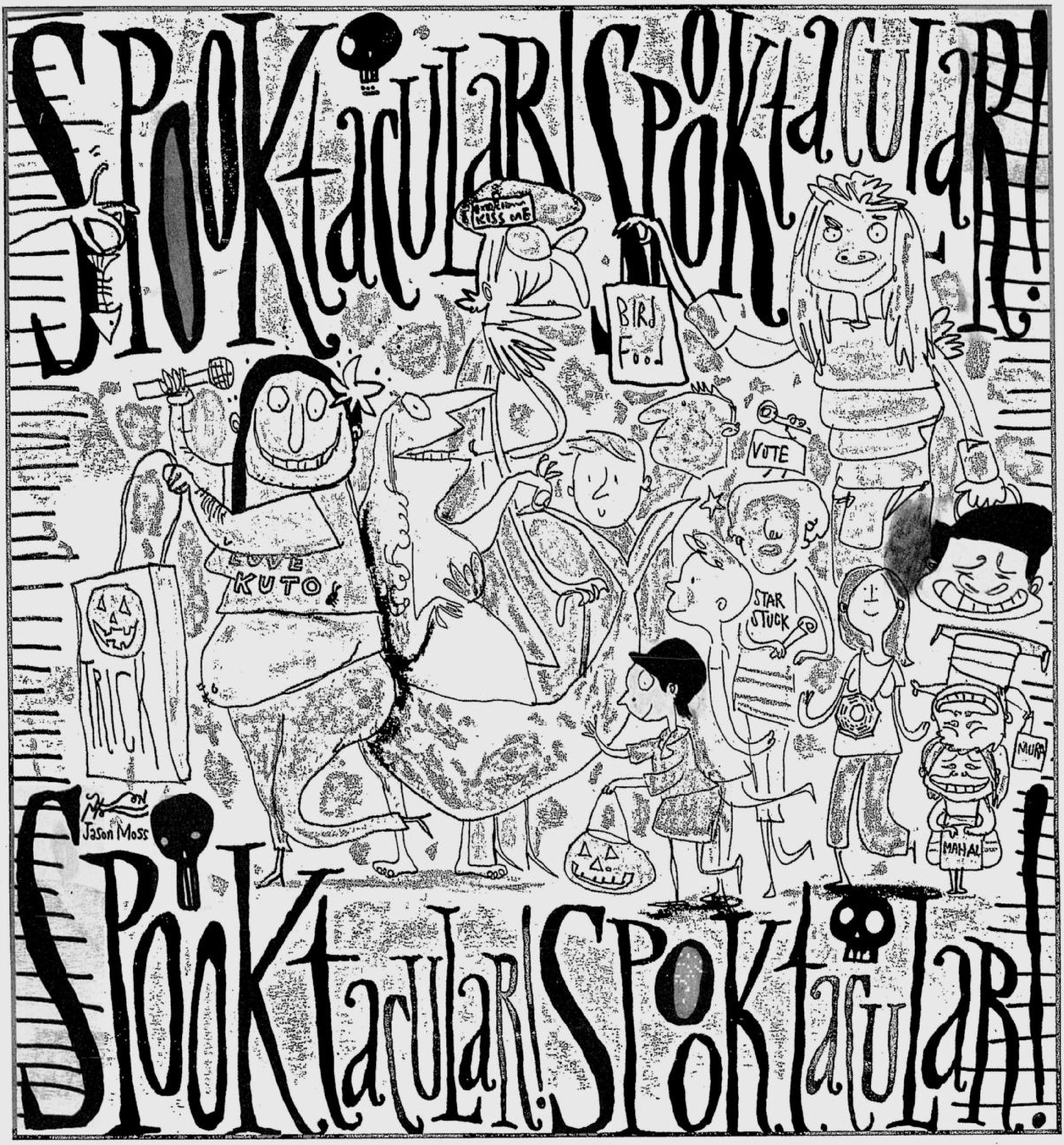


What scares you?

Aside from the fact that ghosts, ghouls and other creatures of the supernatural sort are fashionable at this time of the year, why do we love a good scary movie?

Text by Gino de la Paz
Original artwork by Jason Moss

THERE used to be a time when people lined up for indistinguishable blood-and-gore flicks like the "Nightmare on Elm Street" series, but all of that changed when film fiends discovered frightfests that were a bit more subtle. Oddly enough, this psychological thriller trend looks as if it was honed in Asia, with Korea, Thailand and Japan delivering some of the darkest and spookiest Halloween date movies which Hollywood then coopts.

As of this writing, a thriller about a house possessed by some really pissed-off ghosts is sitting at the top of the US box office with a total take of $39.1 million and counting. Headlined by retired vampire slayer Sarah Michelle Gellar, "The Grudge" is a big-budget retelling of "Ju-On," a straight-to-video horror movie by cult Japanese director Takashi Shimizu. Its nonlinear story structure and creepy plot twists recall recent thinking-man nail-biters like "The Others," "The Ring" and "The Sixth Sense."

Every year since 1999, there always seems to be one end-all-be-all cinematic chiller that gets under our skin and stays there. Aside from the fact that ghosts, ghouls and other creatures of the supernatural sort are fashionable at this time of the year, why do we love a good scary movie?

Fear factors

There's something fun and exciting about being scared by a movie—especially when you're with friends in a crowded theater. It's necessary to expose one's self to a good degree of mystery to keep you on your toes once in a while. Excellent suspense films shake us up rather decently because they allow our imaginations to do the work and renew our sense of security once the make-believe danger goes away.

More than that, however, I think people are attracted by respectable scary movies because most of us are curious about the darker side of human nature. Even though people would name public speaking, worms or a world without cable television as some of their greatest fears, nothing, I believe, measures up to the fear of the unknown.

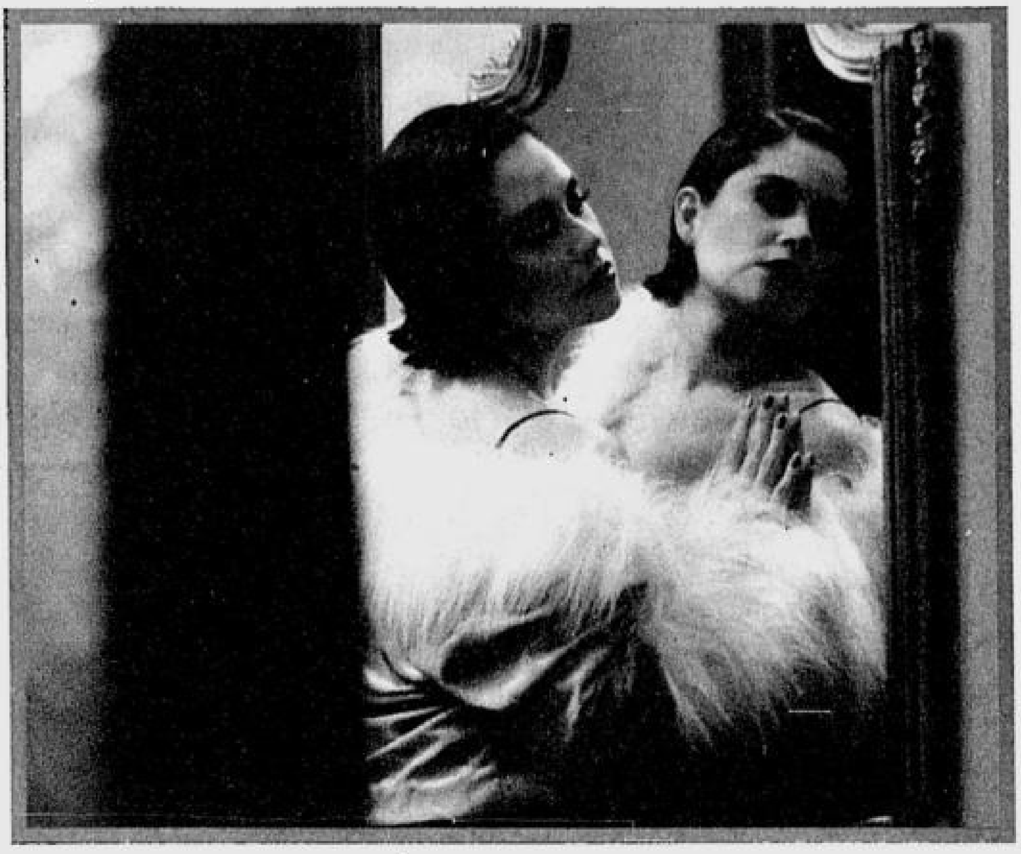
The great escape

Feeding our minds with modern horror movies is a way for us to face our own demons and approach them on a level we can understand. Whether it's a sudden apparition in a dark hallway or a creepy phone call from beyond the grave, it becomes much easier to butt heads and hopefully, overcome a phobia once we have identified it.

But due to the escapist nature of entertainment, I think we like being spooked for even greater reasons. We do live in an era of uncertain futures and so, sometimes, it's less stressful to confront the imaginary terror of a vengeful spirit than the real horrors of everyday life.

Monique's new voice as Sally Bowles

By Tim Yap
Photo by Paolo Pineda



If the British have Vanessa Redgrave, we have Monique Wilson

I'M always attracted to material that's dark—that really provokes us to really think. I don't like stuff that gives us answers because for me, that's preachy. To me, good theater is when you leave the theater, and you almost become a participant in what you watch—because your mind started to work, and also your heart."

Monique Wilson confides this bit of information in a dark corner of Republic of Malate while the cast of New Voice Company's "Cabaret" gears up for their rehearsals. It is barely one week before opening night (November 5 at the Music Museum) where Monique doubles up as director and star of the show that gave Liza Minelli her first Oscar.

I have always been fascinated at how Monique, a consummate actress, attacks each role that she portrays. I have followed her career from Manila to London and back, and I must say, hands down, she is the most hard working and honest actress that the Philippines has produced. If the British have Vanessa Redgrave, we have Monique Wilson.

About her role as Sally Bowles, star of Cabaret's Kitkat Club, she has this to say. "She is like a third rate singer actress who wants to be a star. She wants to climb away to the top. But in a way, she's also an outsider, because she's a British girl in Berlin. She doesn't speak German well, but her charm is always like larger than life, she has a child-like energy but at the same time you wanna slap her also because she's so oblivious to what's happening outside. In the show she gets pregnant, she even has an abortion. Intellectually, she's very self-destructive."

New Voice London

But self destructive is the farthest thing that can describe Monique. After three years of taking up her Masters in Applied Theater and Directing and Theater Education from Central School of Speech and Drama, the alma mater of Vanessa Redgrave and Judi Dench, she graduated with distinction and the school offered her to teach.

Her new profession starts in January but she has actually begun teaching undergraduates when she was still a student. She has also hooked up with her London agents and will start auditioning for roles in the West End once again. While she's at it, she is also setting up New Voice London, which will produce originally written Filipino works in English for an international audience.

"*Ang dami-dami nating* Filipino artists who are remarkably great and they are all based there. But we're still known to be the actors in Miss Saigon and Lion King. Let's show them that we can do a lot of different kinds of theater. We are just as diverse as them. But we need to lead it, I need to envision it, and do it.

The thing about fame is that people think your personal life becomes public property.

The thing I love most about what I do is the chance to provoke people's minds and awaken their hearts through theater.

People might be surprised to know that I love doing housework in my flat in London!

The most important thing I've ever learned is that you are a small part of this universe and earth, but in making a difference, your contribution can be big.

I wish when I started off I've been told to listen to my own voice and learn to trust it, instead of just follow, follow, follow...

The worst thing that ever happened to me was not being empowered enough within a destructive past relationship and losing myself in the process.

And what taught this to me was when I finally met someone who taught me the real meaning of love—which restored my sense of self and has empowered me.

The secret to happiness is being grateful for what you have, and always being generous of spirit and heart.

My best ever outfit consisted of jeans, boots, black beret, leather jacket.

The soundtrack to my life would be too many to mention.

If I was invisible for a day, I would spy on our world leaders and see what they are up to.

The thing that makes me most angry is arrogance, pride and selfishness—and above all, violence towards women and children.

If I was the most powerful person on earth I would make sure all women and girls were free from violence, and all the poor children of this world would have food to eat, a home and an education.

Or if I'm not the most powerful I would still do what I could to help end violence towards women and girls

The best thing about my family is that we are all crazy, emotional and loving!

When I'm gone, they'll probably say in life and in her art, she was always an activist and always stood up for what she believed in.

If money was no option I would put up schools and shelters for street kids, art centers for women and girls who have been violated so that they can thrive in a creative and inspiring atmosphere, build a world-class performing arts school in the Philippines and give scholarships, and produce more theater shows!

When I retire, I would like to keep working in the theater.

The world would be a much better place if our leaders were not so self-serving, corrupt or divisive.

My hero is my mom—Terry Wilson!

The thing that makes life worth living is the goodness you see in so many people.

My greatest hope for the future is that women and girls would always be safe from abuse, violence and oppression.

The worst thing somebody said about me was I'm not sure—I don't listen much to the negative things people say about me.

My favorite moments are when I'm with people I love and share the same passions with.

My most embarrassing moment was when I jumped out of the shower, soaking wet, in my dressing room when I was doing "Miss Saigon" to scare a fellow cast mate, when it turned out to be a really famous English actress I ended up jumping on. She was a friend of Jonathan Pryce who just wanted to congratulate me. She got soaked!

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Life is a cabaret, old chum!

By Tim Yap
Photos by Paolo Pineda
Styling by Miguel Rosales

"OUR VERSION of 'Cabaret' is darker, edgier and racier," shares New Voice Company founder Monique Wilson about their 10th year anniversary staging of this well loved musical.

We are all familiar with the Hollywood version starring Liza Minelli—but what Monique and her company is staging is the new Broadway version of Sam Mendes, hailed by critics as "a production that keeps you spellbound" and one that "generates the excitement of something brand new."

The main difference being you'll leave a Hollywood screening of "Cabaret" with a smile, whereas you step out of this production with a jolt, which is how New Voice Company likes affecting its audience, which they have been doing for a decade now, from Angels in America to Vagina Monologues—shocking theatergoers with thought-provoking material that leaves one at the edge of their seats.

This show, which the producers deemed for adults only, captures the decadence of 1930s Berlin. And we all know how immoral and desperate people were back then. This writer was able to watch this show during its Broadway run a couple of years ago, and I left Studio 54 (now a theater) dumbfounded—this piece will leave you with a strong message. So be prepared.

The Kitkat Club

With a bevy of brothel-based characters, the cabaret becomes a metaphor in a war-torn society because back then, as it is now, people lived life to the very edge because they did not know what would happen next.

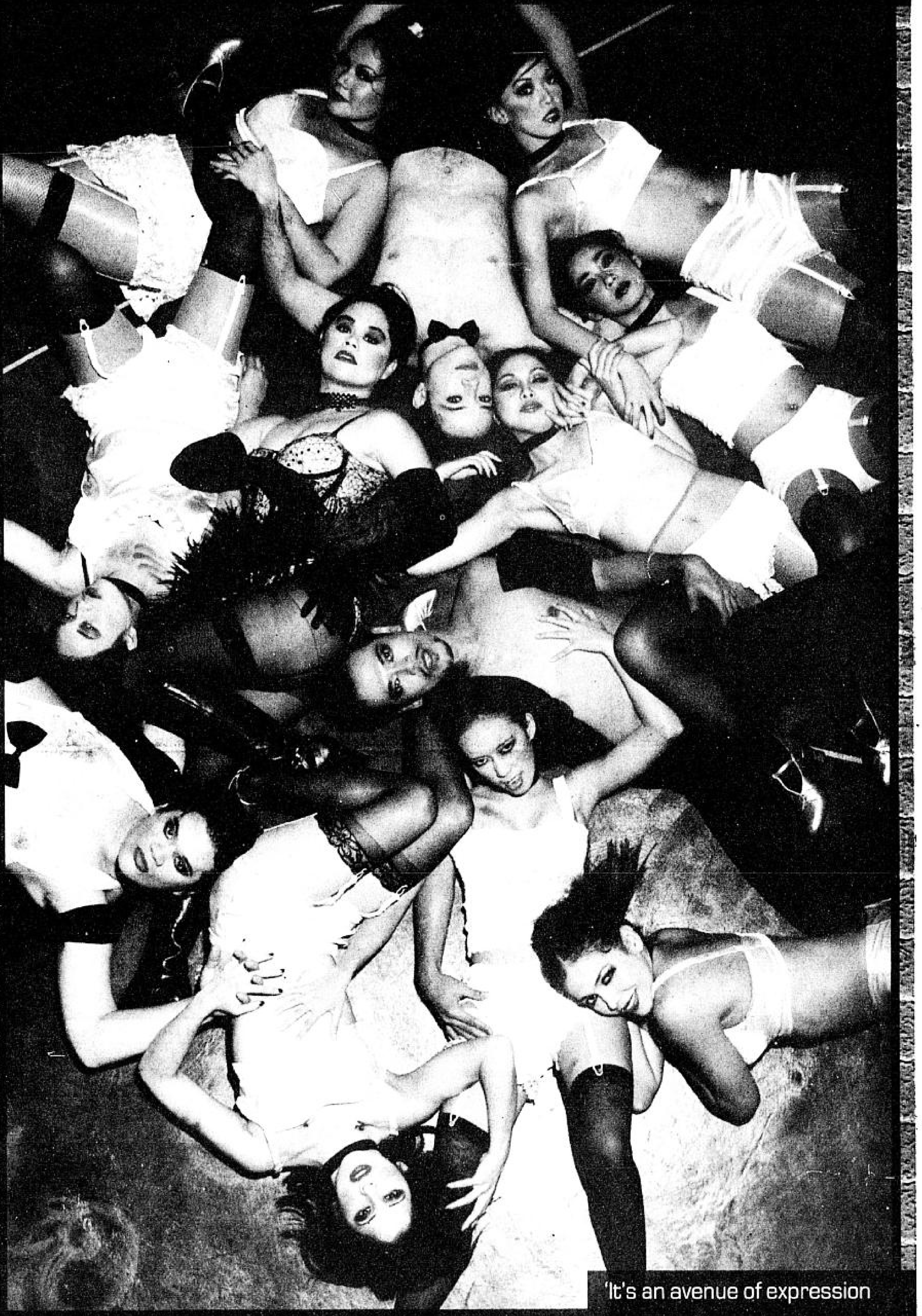
Acting as the denizens of society, the Kitkat Club people portray the outcasts—they're the artists and bohemians who were probably a lot more progressive and liberal than the regular people in those times.

"A lot of them were bisexuals, homosexuals, which historically, in the Nazi regime, they were also sent to concentration camps. *So yung mga* characters *namin parang mga* outcast *ang* style, the musical showed how in their moments of despair what happens in their lives, how they coped with love, with losses, with life itself," explains Monique about the characters of "Cabaret."

"Cabaret" chronicles a world of misfits—Sally Bowles, the British star of the Kitkat Club; Clifford Bradshaw, a struggling American writer, and the Master of Ceremonies, the androgynous and malevolent commentator, among other powerfully written characters from Berlin's seedy underworld, where audiences are transported to a subversive subculture where sexual depravity and moral despair reign.

"I really wanted strong actors. Even in the musical, the singing is very difficult, and the dancing is very difficult. I needed strong actors to capture that edge. That's why I'm so happy with the cast because they're very strong, very distinctive actors," says Monique (who co-directs the show with Rito Asilo) about the ensemble.

On this exclusive Super! spread, get to know the raw, sensual, entertaining, terrifying, sensational, disturbing and absolutely mesmerizing characters of "Cabaret."



> 'It's an avenue of expression because when people are more oppressed the more they want to break away. If you want to stand at the edge of the cliff, you wanna jump because you don't know what tomorrow will bring. As artists, we sort of live on the edge'

Rona Lou San Pedro

Call me Trixie
The thing that gives me goose bumps is seeing dead people
My scariest theatrical moment is when I lost my voice in a show where I have a solo number
Money makes the world selfish and greedy
Life is a cabaret of stimulation
My fetish is small ears

April Celmar

Call me Mathilda
The thing that gives me goose bumps is when I can't pee
My scariest theatrical moment is when I worked with Tita Bibot
Money makes the world B.S.
Life is a cabaret of thrill and excitement
My fetish is pink toes

Nikki Ventosa

Call me Sofia
The thing that gives me goose bumps is old scary-looking dark houses and going to hospitals
My scariest theatrical moment is when we were rehearsing for "Cabaret" then there was an earthquake
Money makes the world greedy
Life is a cabaret of fortune and misfortunes
My fetish is beautiful eyes and clean nails

Joel Trinidad

Call me Bobby the sexual predator
The thing that gives me goose bumps is old-fashioned dolls
My scariest theatrical moment is completely forgetting my line and calling out a name that turned out to be the name of my own character
Money makes the world into something that I could describe properly if I actually have money
Life is a cabaret of surprises that are either happy or sad or a bit of both
My fetish is noses

Lynn Sherman

Call me Kost
The thing that gives me goose bumps is seeing myself in the mirror after one very long night
My scariest theatrical moment is too scary to mention
Money makes the world go round and round and round!
Life is a cabaret of interesting people and funny incidents, if you're lucky
My fetish is unmentionable

Jake Macapagal

Call me Victor/ Max/ US Emcee
The thing that gives me goose bumps is great sex and divine interventions
My scariest theatrical moment is every time I invent lyrics
Money makes the world go KER-CHING! $$$
Life is a cabaret of chickens and vultures
My fetish are delicious butts

Amparo Sietereales

Call me Rosie
The thing that gives me goose bumps is armpits
My scariest theatrical moment is doing acrobatics on scaffoldings in "Rent"
Money makes the world go blind
Life is a cabaret of monsters
My fetish is I'm a virgin

Jenny Jamora

Call me Texas
The thing that gives me goose bumps is the ending of "Cabaret"
My scariest theatrical moment is doing the surprise triple orgasm moan in "The Vagina Monologues"
Money makes the world lose sight of God
Life is a cabaret of broken people
My fetish is the lower back

Jamie Wilson

Call me Master of Ceremonies/Emcee
The thing that gives me goose bumps is a prolonged multiple orgasm
My scariest theatrical moment is opening night of "Hurly Burly" when I jumped 7 pages and almost deleted the entire plot of the play
Money makes the world more expensive
Life is a cabaret of super fabulous beautiful souls
My fetish is leather, lipstick and nurse uniforms

Lily Chu

Call me Frenchie
The thing that gives me goose bumps is the insanity of opening night for any play
My scariest theatrical moment is starting off a song on the wrong note then being off-key for an entire stanza
Money makes the world crazy over silly things
Life is a cabaret of fabulous conversation, terrific music and marvelous inspiration
My fetish is red wine, crazy parties and beautiful people!

Pheona Baranda

Call me Helga
The thing that gives me goose bumps is an earthquake
My scariest theatrical moment is missing my cues
Money makes the world share love
Life is a cabaret of roles I played and want to play
My fetish is nice back with a big tattoo

Monique Wilson

Call me Sally Bowles
The thing that gives me goose bumps is working with great theater actors in an extraordinary musical!!
My scariest theatrical moment is when the audience buy tickets at the last minute
Money makes the world go crazy
Life is a cabaret of great theatrical moments like CABARET!!
My fetish is *kulot-kulot* hair

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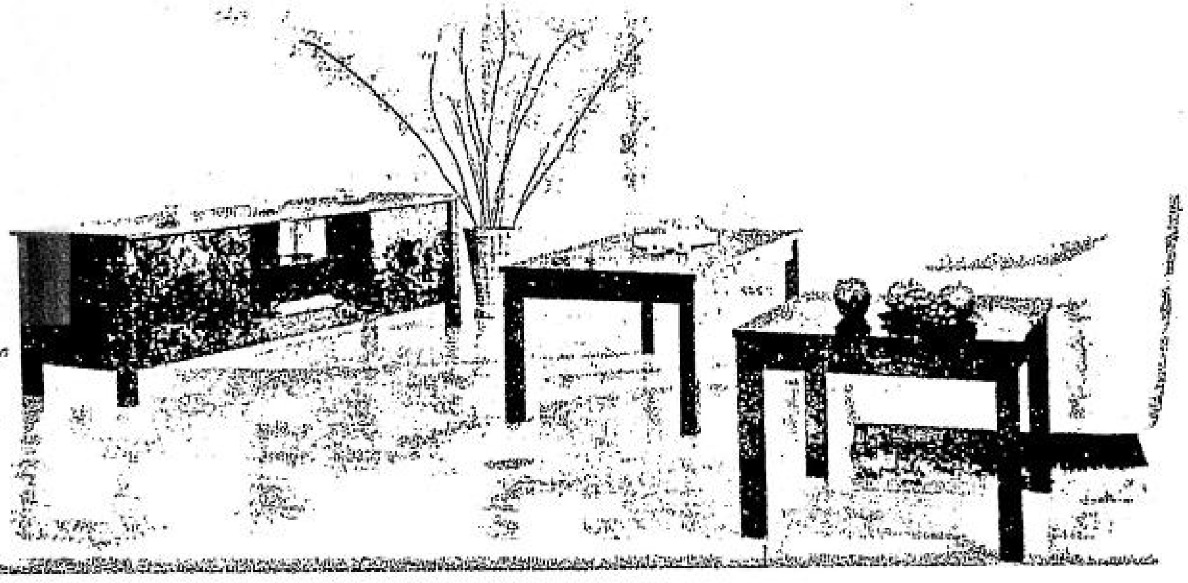

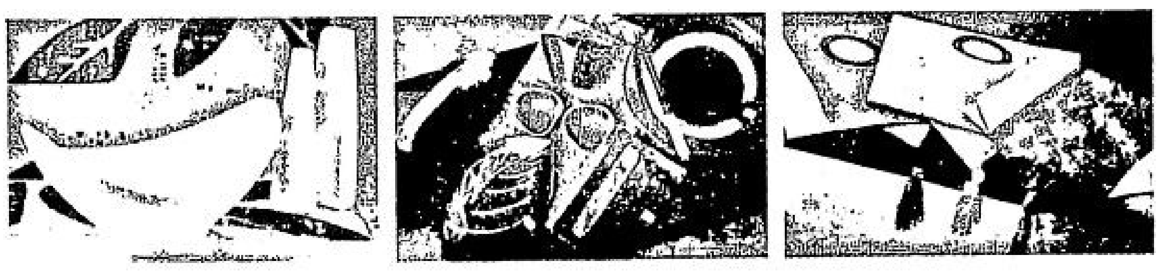

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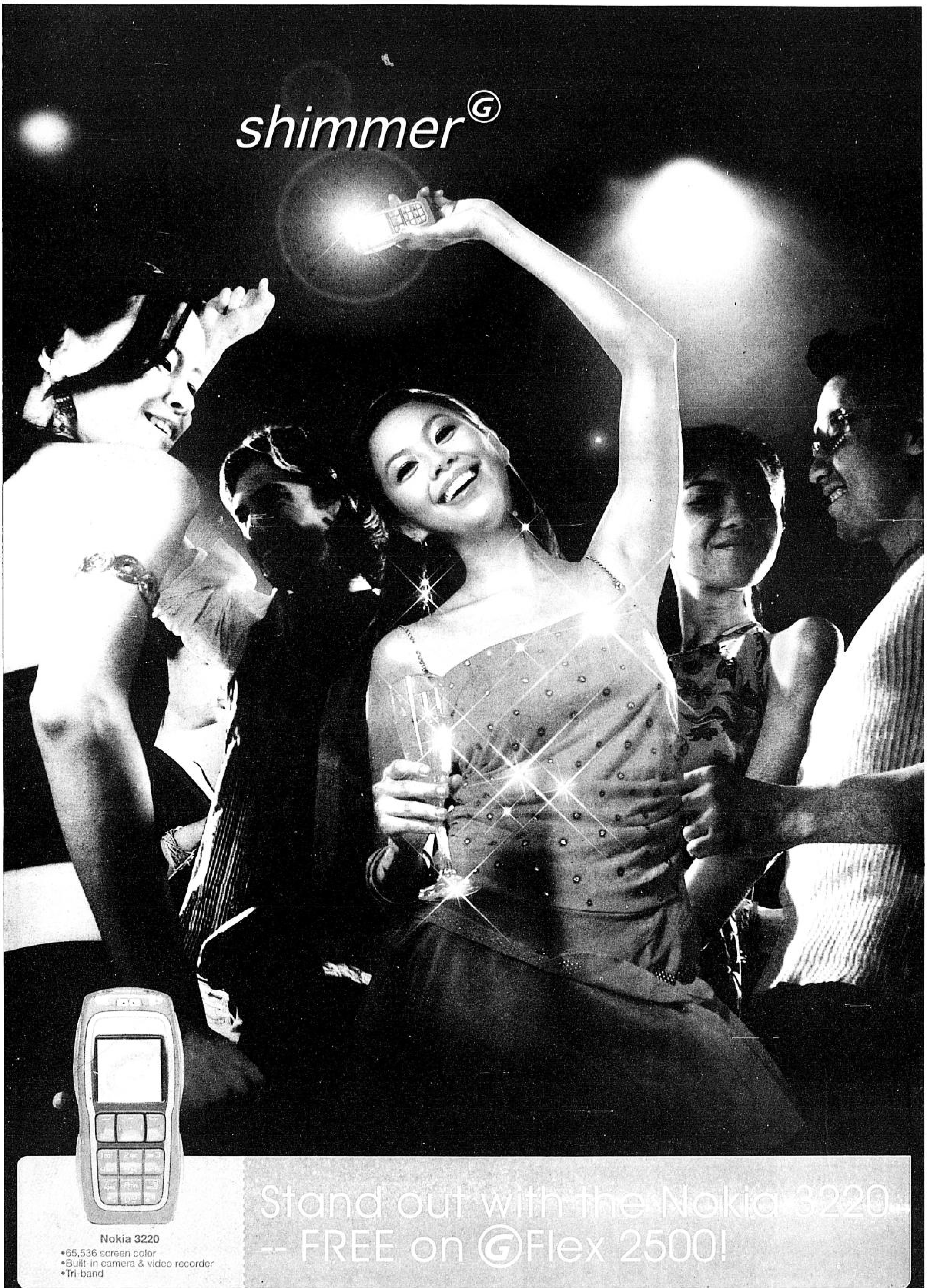
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24 HOURS with Ethan, Jenna and Shii-Ann: Surviving Manila

SHII-ANN, Jenna and Ethan were all "incredibly professional and down-to-earth," according to Studio 23 managing director Leo Katigbak

By Amy Mosura

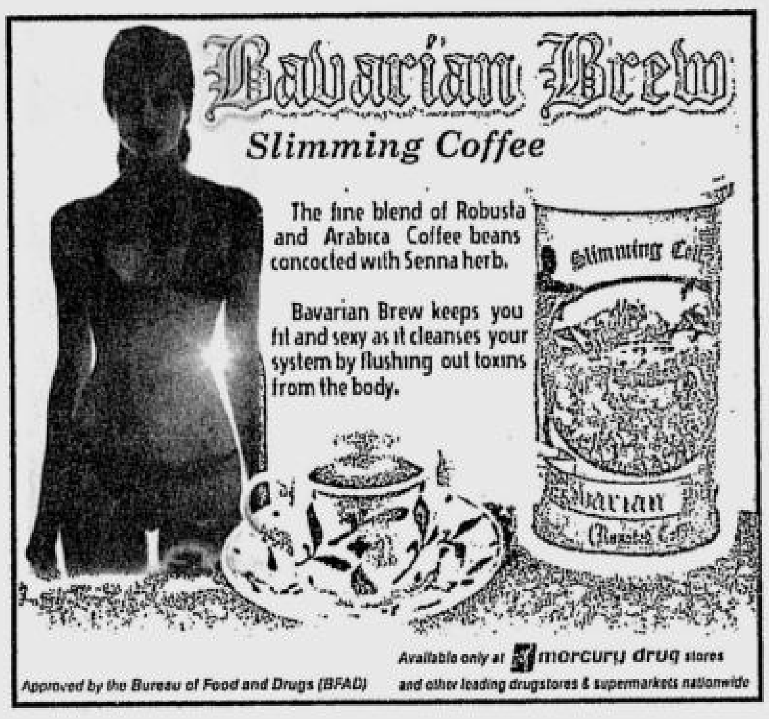
"BRING it on, Philippines!"

That's Jenna Morasca, sole survivor of the Amazon season of US TV's biggest reality franchise to date, "Survivor," as a live guest on "Wazzup! Wazzup!" But Jenna—then on only her second day in Manila as part of Studio 23's Survivors in Manila blitz—could not have expected the fan turnout that greeted her and fellow Survivor All-Stars alumni Ethan Zohn (sole survivor, Survivor: Africa) and Shii-Ann Huang (Survivor: Thailand).

SURVIVING/ D2

SMITTEN with Ethan

They lived through days in wild jungles. Our city was a breeze



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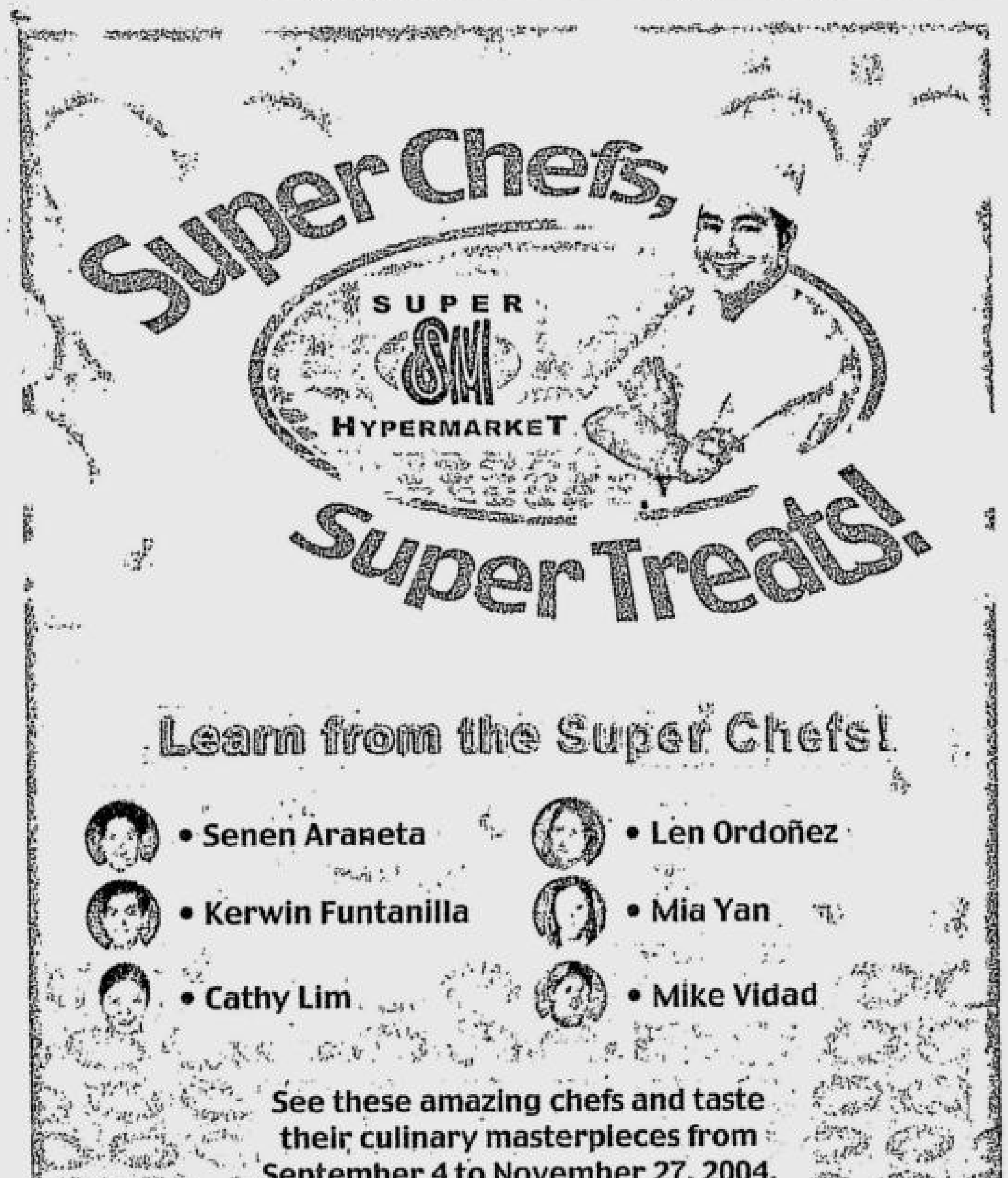

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GOOFING around with the cast of "Wazzup! Wazzup!"

24 HOURS with Ethan, Jenna and

From page D1

"Blitz" is exactly the right word to describe their visit, as the Survivors conquered every one of their Manila stops, with Survivor enthusiasts packing restaurants, studios and even soccer fields to see their reality idols.

"Survivor"—which "strands" a group of contestants on a deserted tropical island, who then must "outwit, outplay and outlast" each other until a "sole survivor" remains—saw each of the three visitors emerge from complete obscurity to become reality television stars. Despite their relative international stature as TV stars, however, they were all excited by their Manila experience.

"We really didn't expect all those people to be there for us," says Ethan Zohn, the curly-haired footballer who emerged as both a heartthrob and a millionaire in the third season of the reality series. "This experience has become such a discovery for us, because while we were aware of the Philippines beforehand, we didn't know that the show would be this big in the Philippines. Or that people would even know who we were."

Adds Taiwan-born Shii-Ann Huang, whose stay in "Survivor: Thailand" made her the first foreign-born contestant on the reality smash: "We honestly had no idea that Manila would be this amazing. I mean, the food, the shopping, the sights, the people—we're all just

SURVIVING/ D3

THE SURVIVORS with Ria Tanjuatco-Trillo, Marieton Pacheco, JC Cuadrado and Studio 23's Leo Katigbak

THE SURVIVORS pose with former INQUIRER columnist Leah Salterio.

SHII-ANN signs autographs for excited fans.

SURVIVOR mania

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FANS show their love for soccer hunk Ethan at the Ateneo football field.

Shii-Ann: Surviving Manila

ONE FAN in particular is very thrilled to be near Ethan.

ETHAN coaches young soccer players at the Ateneo football field.

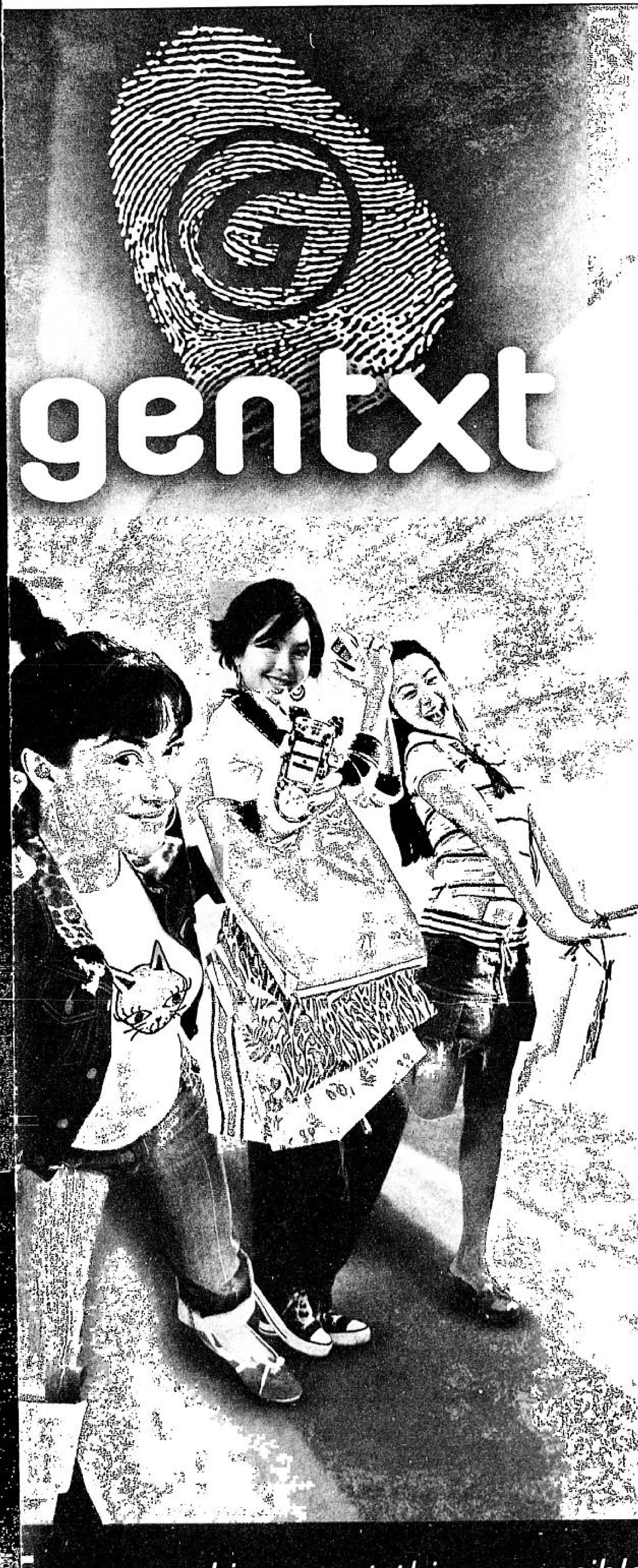
From page D2

very impressed. Maybe we can talk (Survivor producer) Mark Burnett into doing a 'Survivor: Philippines.'"

"By the way, if any producers out there are looking for people for their movies or TV shows or anything like that, call us!" jokes Jenna. "I'm actually compiling a scrapbook on everything that ever happened to us over here. Because I'm gonna need proof to show people 'Look! Everyone loves us over there! I have pictures!'"

The All-Star three relished their Philippine experiences, particularly the food. Each of them insisted on eating only Filipino meals, says Studio 23 managing director Leo Katigbak, who accompanied the visitors to many of their stops. "They're incredibly professional and very down-to-earth. When they went shopping on their first day here, they just walked to the mall from their hotel. We'd love to have them back anytime."

"Survivor" can be seen in its ninth and most current incarnation, "Survivor: Vanuatu," on Studio 23 both live via satellite on Friday and on its primetime broadcast on Sunday.



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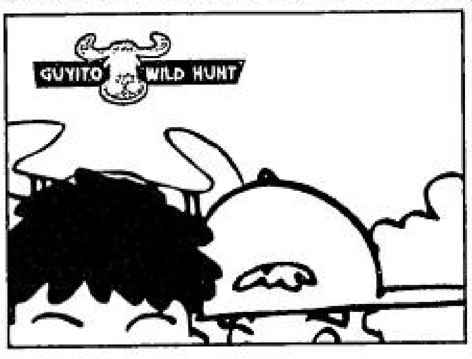

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Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

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See standee for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5282 Series of 2004

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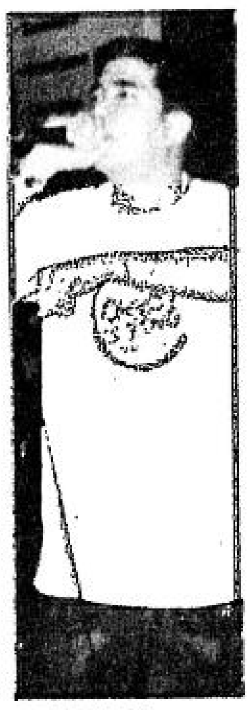
FORT PLAZA, BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY: True Faith, Rivermaya, Hourglass, Bridge, Mojofly, Pido with Take One, Silver, Stonefree, Bisqit (with Bernard Palanca on vocals).

K-LITE'S Carlo, Janice, Ron and Carl

MIRO of Stonefree



FRANCIS M at Eastwood

MAYCHELLE of Moonstar 88

TRUE Faith

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Tall tales

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

In our high-tech era, gossip can turn into gospel. Check the facts first before spreading the word

DID YOU ever play the game "Telephone" when you were younger? If your memory needs a bit of a shove, here's a recap. That grade school pastime involves bored youths who pass on a memorized message assembly line-style until it reaches the end of the maze. The source, or alpha dog, then compares notes with the kid at the tail end to see just how accurately said message was transmitted. Alternately known as the "Postman Game," "Whisper Down the Lane," or "Pass the Message" in more straightforward classrooms, "Telephone" wasn't extreme at all; it merely demonstrated how 'Joey ate a peanut butter and jelly sandwich" can reincarnate as 'Joey ate his toe jelly" if the channels involved had inclinations for evildoing. Fun but scary, don't you think?

As a 10-year-old clowning around during recess, I also took part in these hearsay-inspired reindeer games and found out firsthand just how easily the grapevine can turn into tumbleweed. Looking back now, however, I see "Telephone" not simply as a GP-level gossip experiment but as a microcosm for our current high-tech hoax-spreading era. Give or take a few extra touches, modern pranks such as chain letters and urban legends are similar to "Telephone" because they, too, are mind tricks that exploit and, sadly, distort the power of information.

Our cut-and-paste Internet culture has accelerated the range of these tall tales, relentlessly flooding the zone with supposed Elvis sightings, kidney-harvesting stories and reports that Bill Gates will reward you with $243 for every ex-friend to whom you forward an email. They may sound outlandish and unbelievably phony in hindsight—I mean, no big company worth its IPO does business through chain letters—but those rumors have caught tons of people off guard. (Those are probably the same folks who bought the Spice Girls sex change story.) So, is a cybermyth a light-hearted learning experience or scandal masquerading as a team sport? Scan the following pop culture pleasantries and go figure.

"Small Wonder' star turns Smashing Pumpkin' (1993)

"Small Wonder" was an ancient sci-fi sitcom about the Lawsons, a normal suburban family who happened to have a robot daughter called Voice Input Child Indenticant, a.k.a. Vicki. But instead of selling the story to the tabloids, goody-goody Ted and his wife Joan hid the fact that Vicki was a mechanical animal cooked up in a lab. Together with their pudgy son Jamie, they somehow got away with fooling their neighbors despite Vicki's wildly obvious monotone and annoying Amazonian strength. A stretch? No, it was the '80s!

After a somewhat successful 96-episode run, "Small Wonder" signed off in 1989 and found its place in the annals of small screen entertainment. Four years later, rumors started to fly that Jerry Supiran, the kid who once played Jamie Lawson, grew up to become Billy Corgan, one-time guitarist and lead vocalist of the now-defunct alternative band Smashing Pumpkins. Maybe it was the strong Charlie Brown vibe, but word on the street pegged Jerry and Billy as one and the same persọn.

Admittedly though, the resemblance is there

TALL/ E3

STOP WONDERING. Jamie Lawson (center) didn't grow up to become Billy Corgan.

I'M here!
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horrific TRICKS or terrific TREATS
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come in your creepiest costume!
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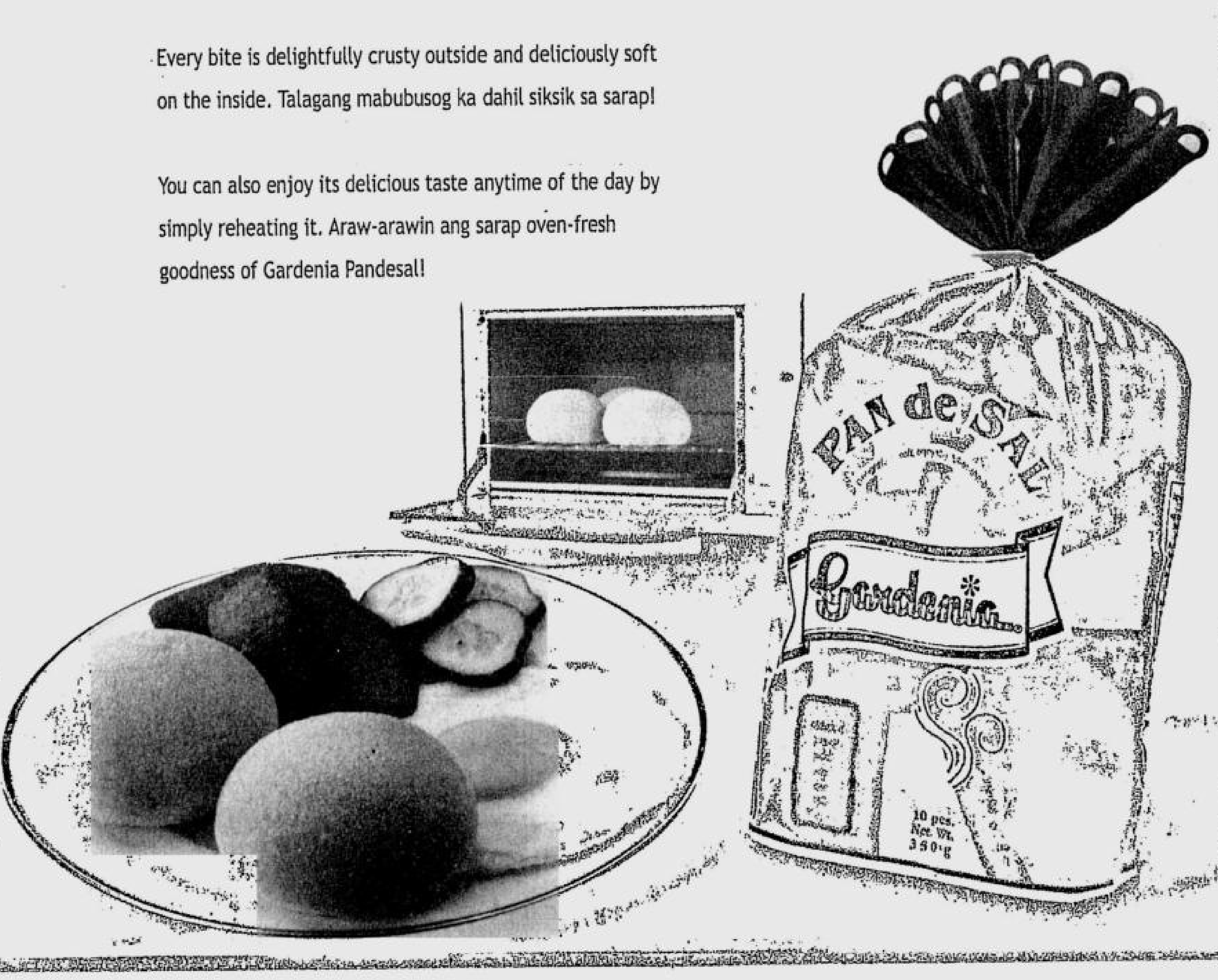


Becoming Eddie Gil

By Pam Pastor

WITH all the commitments, appointments, deadlines and responsibilities that pepper your days, we're sure not all of you have had the time to come up with a creative Halloween costume.

Because we don't want you to show up in a lame outfit ("I'm wearing all red, I'm a hotdog" or "I'm wearing a black shirt with blue pants—I'm a bruise, silly"), we've got the answer for you, right on this page.

Step 1: Cut out our Super! mask.

Step 2: Stick it onto a piece of cardboard to make it sturdy (double-sided tape is a neater alternative to glue).

Step 3: Cut it out again.

Step 4: Tape it onto a stick, a chopstick or a hard plastic drinking straw.

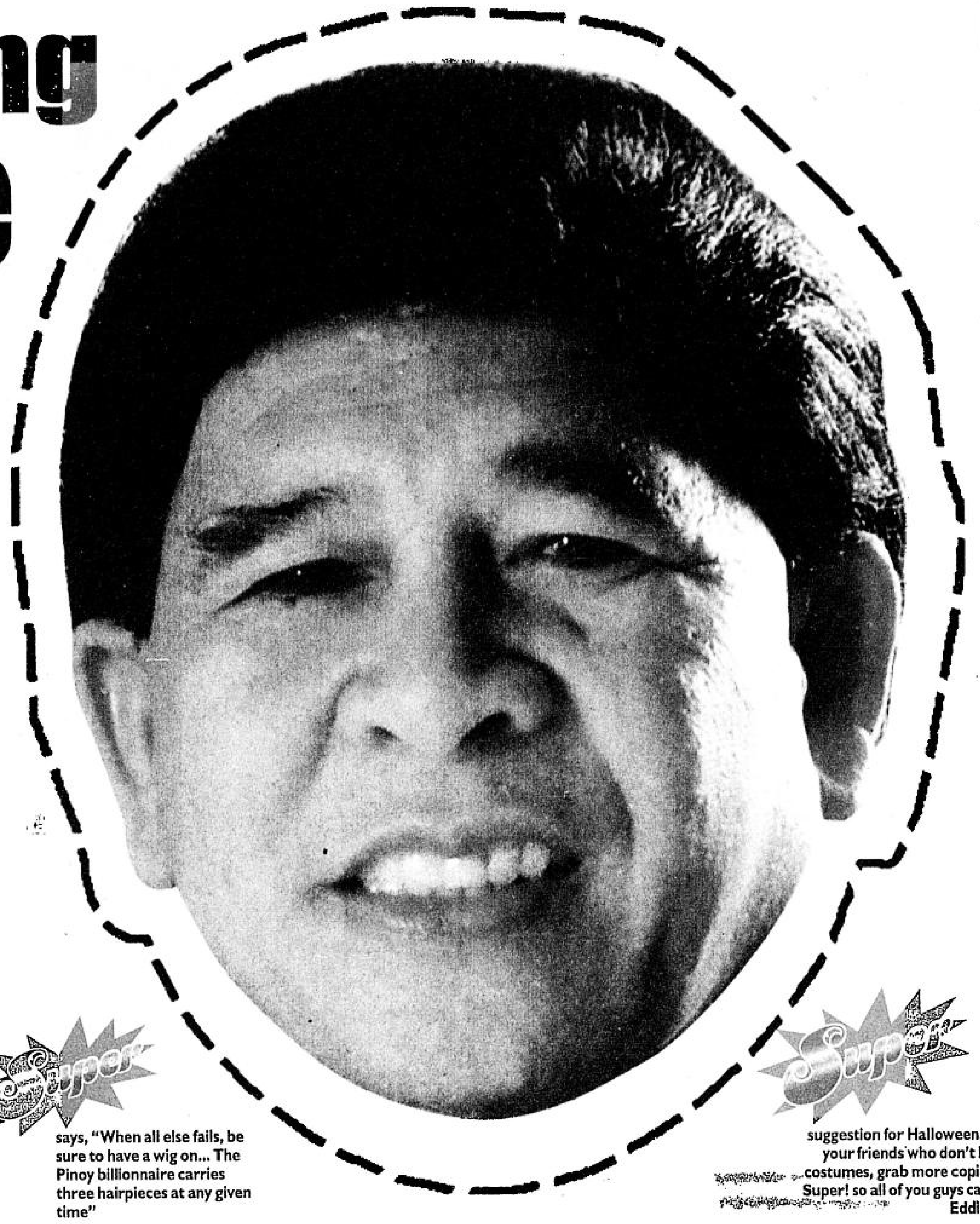
Step 5: Wear a funky barong (you can borrow your dad's old one and jazz it up a bit) or a flashy suit.

Step 6: Add a little (or okay, a lot) of bling...

And *voila!* You're ex-presidentiable, self-proclaimed gazillionaire and entertainer extraordinaire Eddie Gil.

Remember to take off the mask before midnight or you could turn into him forever.

Have a Super! Halloween weekend.



Super says, "When all else fails, be sure to have a wig on... The Pinoy billionnaire carries three hairpieces at any given time"

Super suggestion for Halloween. For your friends who don't have costumes, grab more copies of Super! so all of you guys can be Eddie Gil

Between Black and White

By Tony Ty
Photos by Jose Enrique Soriano

WHEN Wim Wenders was asked why he shot his movie "Far Away, So Close" in both black and white and in color, he said that, "black and white captures a person's essence more than a picture in color."

Nobody knows this better than Jose Enrique Soriano, whose spiritual belief, Buddhism, moves him to seek light—while his passion, photography, draws him to the darkroom. Through his lenses we meet the patients of the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong in a moving new show called "Episodes: Still Photos of the Unstill Mind." Through this, he hopes that we learn compassion for the mentally ill and that our compassion grow a thousand fold.

"These photographs were taken between 1993 and 1996," said Enriquez, whose photographs have been published in Life, Time, Newsweek, Vanity Fair, SELF, Elle, and other foreign magazines and newspapers. "After 1996, the photographs remained as negatives except for a few work prints that had been shown to friends and editors."

Through the Silver Lens Gallery, the only space in the country dedicated to photography, Enriquez's series of striking, dramatic black-and-white photographs can finally be viewed in public—though these are about subjects that society would rather erase.

MEET the patients of the National Center for Mental Health

"This show presents these patients as being here, present in society," said Enriquez, who knows how the city of Mandaluyong figures in a lot of jokes pertaining to mental health, despite the fact that this illness is one of the most disempowering. "This is how I conceptualized the show to be."

Mental illness as taboo

This is precisely the kind of attitude Isa Lorenzo, creative director of Silver Lens, looks for in photographers.

"All the exhibits we feature at Silver Lens have concepts that are strong," said Lorenzo, who had just finished her own show, Healing Spaces, last month. Also done in black and white, proceeds from Healing Spaces were donated to the I Can Serve Foundation, a group that empowers women with breast cancer. "Instead of sweeping any kind of subject, illness for example, under the rug, why not bring them out there, stare at them in the face and accept that they're there?"

This, however, doesn't mean that illness is a recurring theme in Silver Lens exhibits. In December, Claudine Sia will have her photography show with remembrance as its main focus. Next year, several other photographers are in line, including Eddie Boy Escudero and Denise Weldon-Minana. For now, however, there are Episodes' 29 gripping photographs.

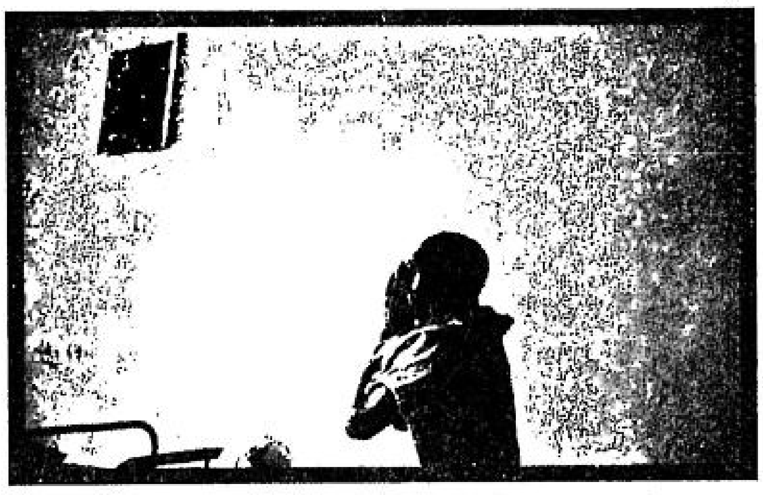
"People think of mental illness as taboo, a condition discussed in back room whispers, often a subject of fear and ridicule," said Enriquez, whose camera captures some of the patients with their vacant looks, languid poses and their stark nakedness. "Darkness exists, and we shouldn't look the other way."

Enriquez is no stranger to darkness. As a photojournalist who had covered the Asean region out of Singapore for the past 10 years, eight of which were for the island's newspaper, he had witnessed numerous events: the earthquake in Taiwan, the bombing in Bali, the insurgency in the Philippines. He also has been pursuing personal social documentary projects throughout his career, one of which is about mental illness.

Enriquez's 'Episodes'

His jarring images have now become collectible fine art photography. "It would be best to look beyond what is sensational about them, about what turns us off, and learn instead from what connects them to us," Enriquez said, emphasizing how mental illness is an affliction generally kept within the confines of family secrets. "But every mental health worker will testify that with access to medication and an emotional support system, mental illness is curable and at the very least manageable."

Episodes also brings closure to chapters in Enriquez's own life. When this project was being undertaken, his life was at its most tumultuous. Today, he has since dismantled his darkroom in an old British military barracks in Singapore, moved back to Manila last August with his five cats, and is currently working and living in an old prewar apartment building in Malate.



"THIS show presents these patients as being here, present in society"

"IT WOULD be best to look beyond what is sensational about them"

He believes that this was a process he had to go through to discover himself, and he has come full circle through Episodes.

John Campbell once said that the only real thing in life is in the center, everything else is an apparition. If we want to stay in the sunlight all year round and not deal with the shadow side of life, then something is about to snap. Black ceases to be without white; darkness can't exist without light. We all live between black and white, the only way we can find our own center is to know our extremes.

"Episodes" can take us there.

"Episodes: Still Photos of the Unstill Mind" opened on Oct. 23 at the Silver Lens Gallery, and will run up to Nov. 20. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 816-0044.

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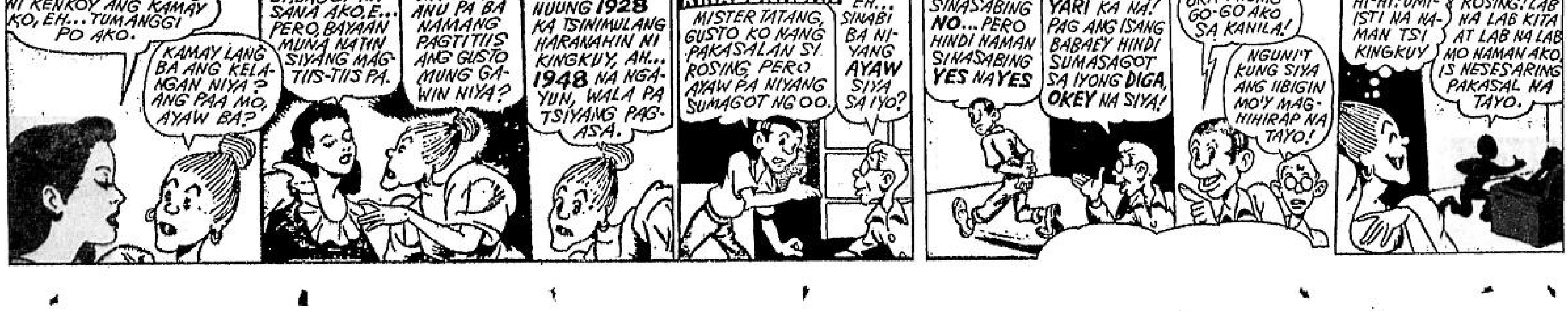
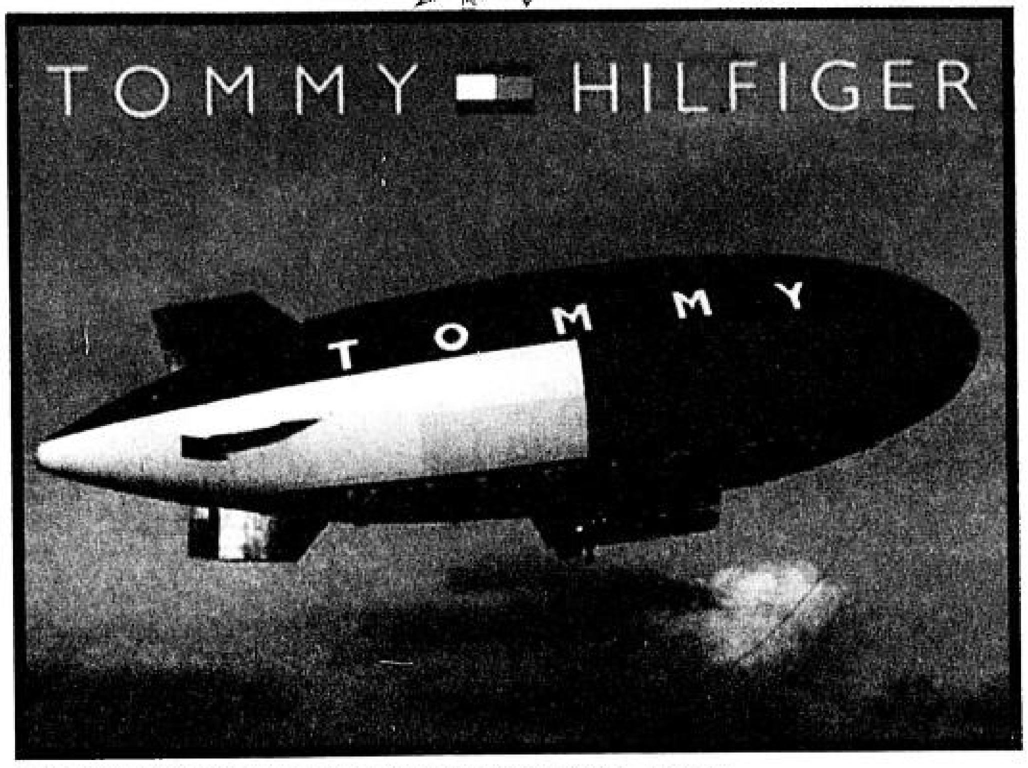

INAY, HINIHINGI NA PO NI KENKOY ANG KAMAY KO, EH... TUMANGGI PO AKO.
KAMAY LANG BA ANG KELANGAN NIYA? ANG PAA MO, AYAW BA?
SASAGOT NA SANA AKO, E... PERO, BAYAAN MUNA NATIN SIYANG MAGTIIS-TIIS PA.
TIRYUSIP! ANU PA BA NAMANG PAGTITIIS ANG GUSTO MUNG GAWIN NIYA?
TSIMULA PA HUUNG 1928 KA TSINIMULANG HARANAHIN NI KINGKUY, AH... 1948 NA NGAYUN, WALA PA TSIYANG PAG-ASA.
KINABUKASAN
MISTER TATANG, GUSTO KO NANG PAKASALAN SI ROSING, PERO AYAW PA NIYANG SUMAGOT NG OO.
EH... SINABI BA NIYANG AYAW SIYA SA IYO?
HINDI NIYA SINASABING NO... PERO HINDI NAMAN SINASABING YES NA YES
KUNG GANON, YARI KA NA! PAG ANG ISANG BABAEY HINDI SUMASAGOT SA IYONG DIGA, OKEY NA SIYA!
IS DAT SO? ORA MISMO GO-GO AKO SA KANILA!
NGUNI'T KUNG SIYA ANG IIBIGIN MO'Y MAGHIHIRAP NA TAYO!
KINA ROSING
HI-HI! UMIISTI NA NAMAN TSI KINGKUY
ROSING! LAB NA LAB KITA AT LAB NA LAB MO NAMAN AKO, IS NESESARING PAKASAL NA TAYO.


TOMMY HILFIGER
TOMMY

IT NEVER HAPPENED. The Tommy rumor was just that—a rumor.

Tall tales

From page E1

but a brief number-crunching session coupled with a little common sense instantly disproves this. Billy Corgan was born March 17, 1967. Had he played the role of an 11- or 12-year-old in 1985, he would've already been 18, an outrage even for Hollyweird standards. How and why did such a rumor come up? Barbara Mikkelson of urban legend-busting Snopes.com writes, "There's something wickedly appealing about the notion of a squeaky-clean child star going on to become a rock stär trading upon vivid images of horror and death. Those lovable TV families were hard enough to live up to without every character in them being perfect in real life as well—we're delighted to hear when one of them turns out not to be." It seëms the real Jerry Supiran, whose birthday falls on March 21, 1973, was yet another target of the TV-tyke-turns-bad-boy myth. Contemporary Josh Saviano, Paul Pfeiffer on "The Wonder Years," put up with a similar fallout when the free world speculated that he evolved into nightmare rocker Marilyn Manson.

'Tommy Hilfiger's Racist Slur' (1996)

People were up in arms in 1996 when designer Tommy Hilfiger reportedly appeared on a television talk show and said, "If I knew that blacks and Asians were going to wear my clothes, I would have never designed them." Emails as well as verbal admonitions to boycott TH products made the rounds, sparking an instant Tommy backlash. The rage even reached critical mass in the Philippines because Hilfiger allegedly named several Asian races, particularly Filipinos, as belonging to those people who didn't look good in his stuff. Meanwhile, those of us who only cared for Ralph Lauren's take on preppie chic turned the other way and yawned.

Anyway, this particular strain of gossip is a bit harder to quell since it's a marvel of non-specificity; no one can say exactly where or when Hilfiger made the comments. One woman said a friend heard him say it on "BET News." A clerk at Burdines said he heard it was on "Ricki Lake." Several modern versions of the rumor even report that Tommy Hilfiger made an appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" while an earlier account on Snopes.com said that it was on "CNN Style with Elsa Klensch." Wherever it began, all parties involved have steadfastly debunked the cybermyth. On Monday, Jan. 11, 2003, Oprah opened her show by stating the following: "The rumor claims

TALL/ E4

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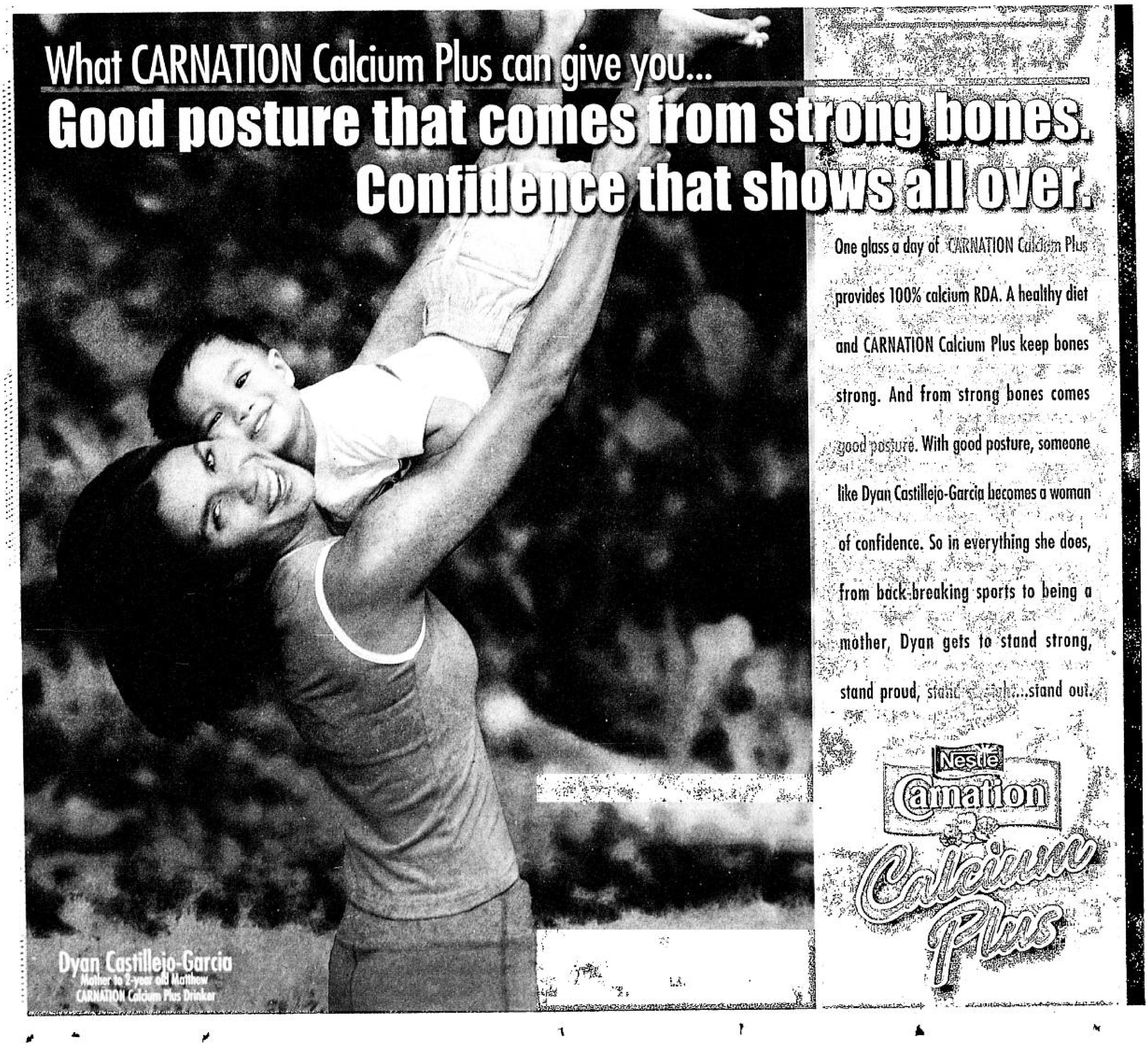
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Have a Super! Halloween

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Pam Pastor

WHO SAYS Christmas is the only time for generosity?

Not the Super! Team, that's for sure.

This Halloween, we bring to you an event that's bound to fill you with warmth and not the chills—the Super! Charity Halloween Children's Party.

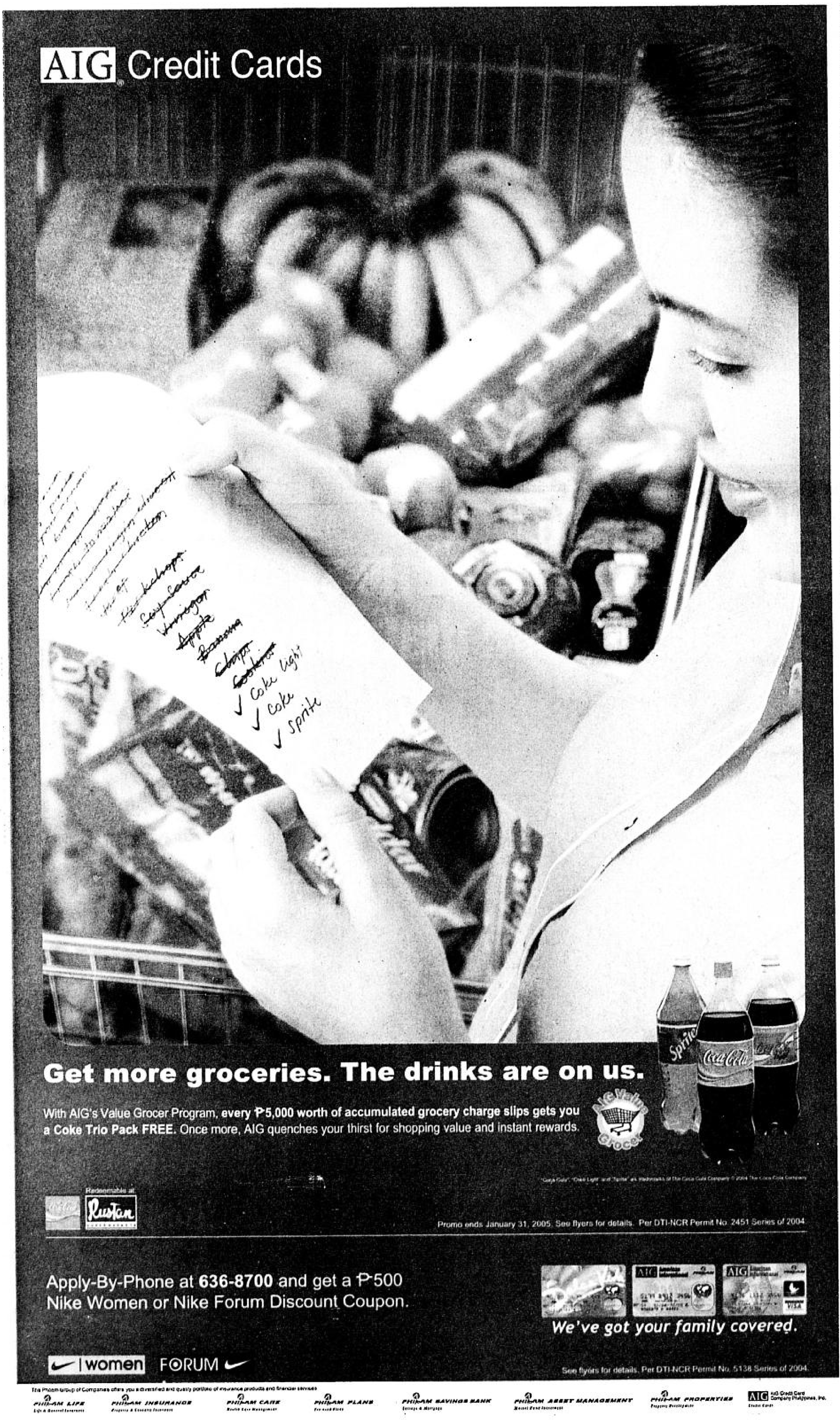
Today, Oct. 30, head to the Activity Center and Playzone of Market! Market! (at Fort Bonifacio Global City) from 2 to 5 p.m. and get the chance to play big brother or sister to 300 children (12 and under). Special invitations were given out to Junior Inquirer club members. Kids of the first 100 shoppers of Market! Market! that day also get to join the event.

One hundred street children from different shelters will be brought to the event by the Vince Hizon Foundation, Jesus Loves the Little Children Foundation and Bahay Maria Foundation.

These kids will all receive Super! loot bags and will enjoy food from McDonald's, Selecta ice cream, popcorn and cotton candy. They can go booth-hopping, have their faces painted, get glitter tattoos and play with McDonald's Grimace and INQUIRER's lovable mascot Guyito. There will be yo-yo exhibitions, magicians and clowns to keep them entertained. Our little partyphiles will also get to parade and visit participating Market! Market! tenants for Trick or Treating. McDonald's will also be hosting the biggest Halloween celebration for kids—complete with games, raffles and prizes. Exciting rewards await little kids who will be wearing the best costumes.

See you there! Be sure to come early—everything is on a first come, first served basis.

This event was made possible by Super!, Junior Inquirer, Market! Market!, McDonald's, Selecta, Lollipop Safety Balloon Center, Sports House and Smarty Toys. For inquiries, text Ate Ching at 0921-5925101.



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FORUM

15 MINUTES TILL DEATH? William Hung is still alive. Groan.

Tall tales

From page E3

that clothing designer Tommy Hilfiger came on this show and made racist remarks, and that I then kicked him out. I just want to say that is not true because it just never happened. Tommy Hilfiger has never appeared on this show. Read my lips, TOMMY HILFIGER HAS NEVER APPEARED ON THIS SHOW. And all of [the] people who claim that they saw it, they heard it—it never happened. I've never even met Tommy Hilfiger." On Tommy.com, Tommy Hilfiger's statement regarding the Internet backtalk is supported by the Anti-Defamation League who said, "We have concluded that these rumors are completely false, and it is apparent that you never made the statements attributed to you, nor did you appear on The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Stereotyping Hilfiger as a racist asshat is unfortunate because in 1995, Hilfiger was named Menswear Designer of the Year by the Council of Fashion Designers of America. From there he's gone nowhere but up. Mikkelson says there's another likely explanation that must also be considered. "As Hilfiger's clothing became more and more popular, it increasingly became a target for the Pacific Basin knock-off specialists. Hilfiger's statements that people should [avoid] Asian or Filipino bootlegs of his clothes because cheap copies don't look good on anybody could easily have been misheard or misunderstood so that they were later remembered as statements to the effect that Asians or Filipinos themselves should not wear Hilfiger designs as *they* would make his clothes look bad." So much for the supposed slamming.

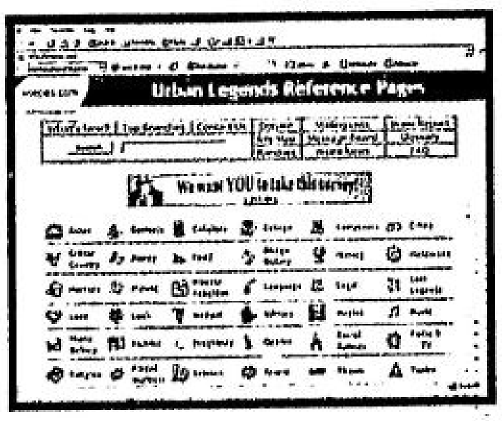
'William Hung's Overdose' (2004)

In mid-July this year, people with zero tolerance for crap threw victory parties when buzz hit that buck-toothed "American Idol" reject William Hung died of an "intentional" heroin overdose. "The announcement of his death sent shockwaves to the tens of people who still found him funny," Brokennewz.com's Robert Krupto stated. The Las Vegas police apparently released part of his suicide note that read, "I have no reason of living... my art which is my importance to the best everybody laugh to... I make end here... goodbye world of cruel." Inasmuch as I nearly saw spots laughing at that news flash, I also couldn't help but feel sorry for the Hungster, a person who looks like he got beaten with a whole forest of ugly sticks. So I did what any self-respecting email forwarder would do before forwarding emails: I Googled for the truth.

What I discovered though cast a dark cloud over me and made me cry buckets in disbelief; it was a sham! The Hung story was yet another case of a celebrity's demise being attributed to a heroin overdose even though the "victim" was still very much alive. The article that prompted the rumor was published on July 13, 2004 on "Broken Newz," a satire news and entertainment site whose disclaimer advises that "stories listed on this site are not real." Several clues revealed that the William Hung "death" piece was meant to be humorous (e.g., the "intentional" overdose; "tens of people" still found him funny, etc.). Since then, Hung and members of his family have issued statements dismissing the spoof. I should've known better, but you can't blame a guy for hoping, right? Rats.

My pearls about urban legends

As proven by the popularity of mainstream movies and Discovery Channel shows on the topic, urban legends are more entertaining if you believe them than if you merely listen to them. But then again, gullibility is perfect in moderation. Never bank on anything and you'll be called a no-fun tightass. Believe in everything and you're an exploitable sucker with Slurpee for brains. Just to set it straight, posting something on the Web is like scribbling something on a public washroom's walls. Taking them seriously involves trusting at your own risk.



Urban Legends Reference Pages
We want YOU to take this survey!

FACT-CHECKING comes before forwarding even in the dictionary.

Freak or treat? Let it all out

By Tim Tayag

I USED to love Halloween when I was a kid because of all the candies I got. I lived in a village full of Americans from the military base (go G.I. Joe!) so I got all the name brand candies—Kitkat, Milky Way, Watchamacallit, 3 Musketeers, and the list goes on and on. This was a time when most people could only get hold of the local bottom-of-the-barrel Goya chocolate, so my friends and I felt we were in a gold mine (pimpin' music here).

Each Halloween night after we made our rounds in all the streets, my friends and I would sit down and do an inventory. Then we would play "candy poker" where the younger ones usually ended up with the crappy candy (like the one shaped liked a fang and tasted like wax) and the older kids got the premium stuff (like Toblerone, which I considered the Mercedes of candy). The whole week, all we ate were candies—candy with rice, candy sandwich, candy with ice cream, soup candy, and bagoong-dipped candy. Okay, maybe I was not the last one.

Of course, the other big deal about Halloween was the costume. I wore most of the classics: Superman (may he rest in peace) with the baggy pants, Zorro with the tight pants, Lone Ranger with the tight mask, Tonto with the tight ponytail, etc. I did the stint for several years until I felt I was a little too old to be wearing such outfits.

I think most kids go through that stage during puberty. You don't want people to say "Uh... aren't you too old to be a bunny rabbit...' with a mustache (more like peach fuzz really)?" But then once you've established your sexuality (usually around your 30s) it's cool to wear costumes again. Like now.

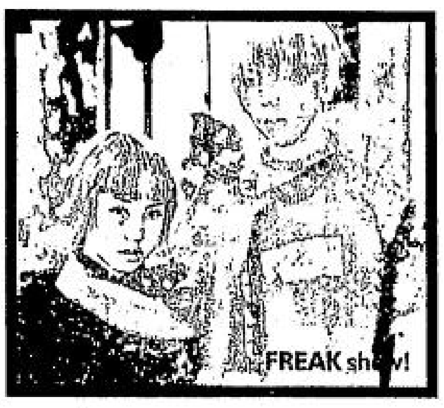
Deciding what costume to wear can be hard. Either you go all out or don't do it at all. You hope you have friends who are also into it, because you would look stupid if you showed up in, say, a catwoman or catman outfit (hmmm... not a bad idea) while everybody else wore regular clothes. In that case you can just yell out "It's a surprise costume party!!!" then run home crying.

I toyed with a bunch of costume ideas but most of them didn't work. First I thought of wearing a jacket to cover my head so I would look headless and if people asked me who I was I'd say "I'm Angelo dela Cruz if we didn't pull out the troops." A friend told me it might be in bad taste. So I thought of something scarier, like J. Lo without make-up. But I don't have the "rocks" that she's got. Then I thought of just being a walking skeleton but Paolo Santos beat me to it. Then, I tried to look like Lance Armstrong by wearing cycling shorts with a marble hanging out from the side of it. But I thought the cancer society might give me a hard time for it.

So finally I came up with the worst nightmare for all single men. I thought of dressing up as a pregnancy test kit with a positive result. But then no clinic would have that prop for me. Some group costumes I came up with are: the Village People (cowboy, Indian, police officer, sailor, and construction worker... wait, is it the Hagibis?), rugby boys (just wear rags and sniff plastic bags), and the spookiest bunch that comes out after midnight—Master Showman talents (just wear ugly makeup and ugly clothes then sing and dance bad). I'm still trying to come up with an outfit up to now.

Some adults don't like wearing costumes on Halloween. I say to them "Where's your spirit of fun? You've killed the kid inside of you! Humbug!" Halloween is the perfect excuse to come out of the closet... with your creativity (got you!). Any other night you'd be called a freak, a queer, a drag queen and get kicked out of your parents' house. But for one night, you're all right.

So don't miss out on Halloween. Take advantage of the celebration and let out that inner freak in you. But if you do miss it, you can always go to Malate where every night is Halloween. Remember kids, don't take candies from strangers. Let them introduce themselves first.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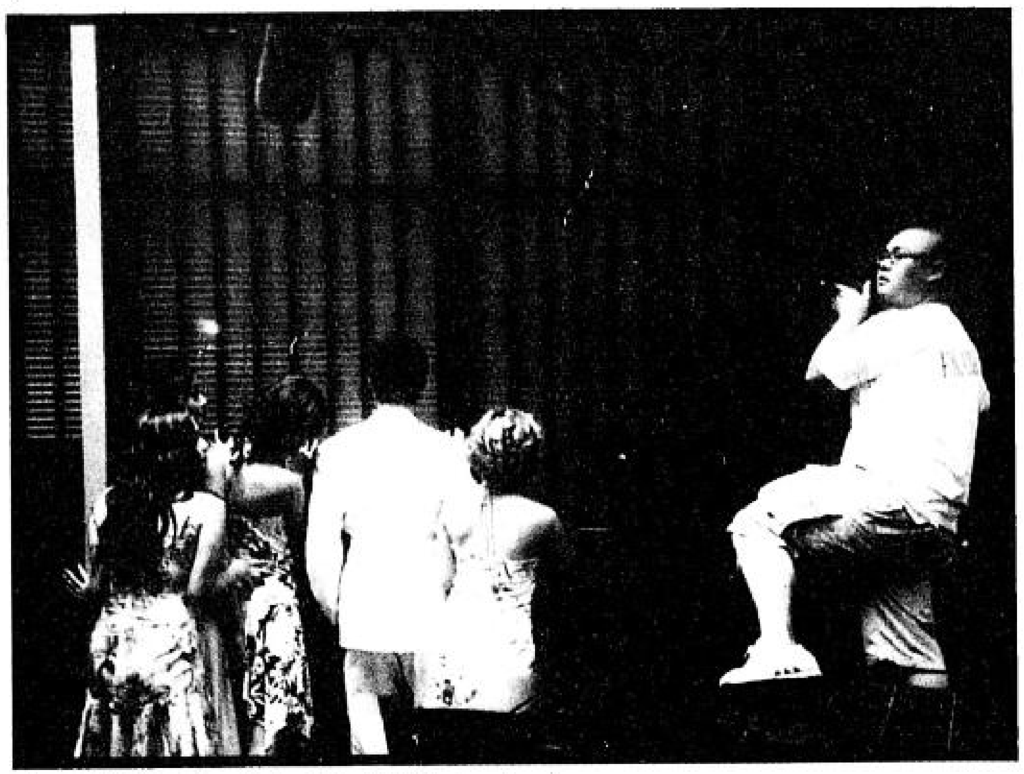
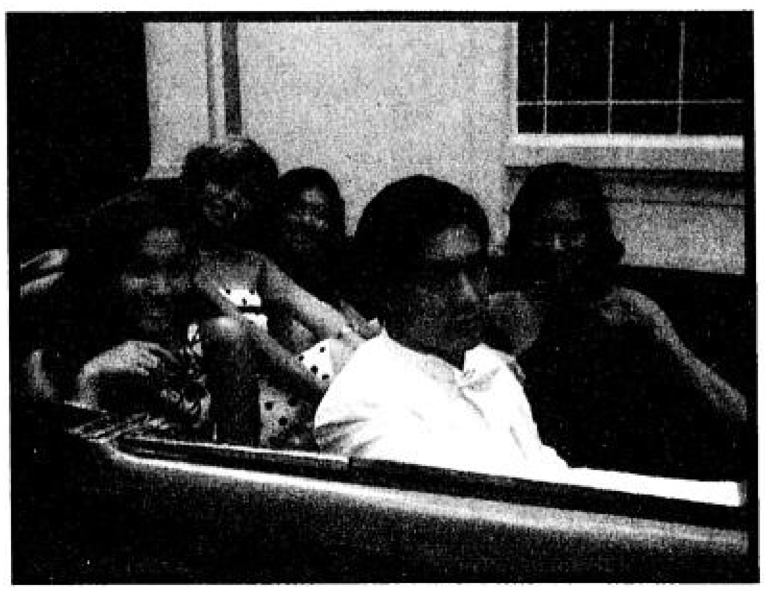

IN BETWEEN takes of the "Film Noir" episode

Behind the scenes


PIERRE tries out his seduction skills

By Denise Laurel

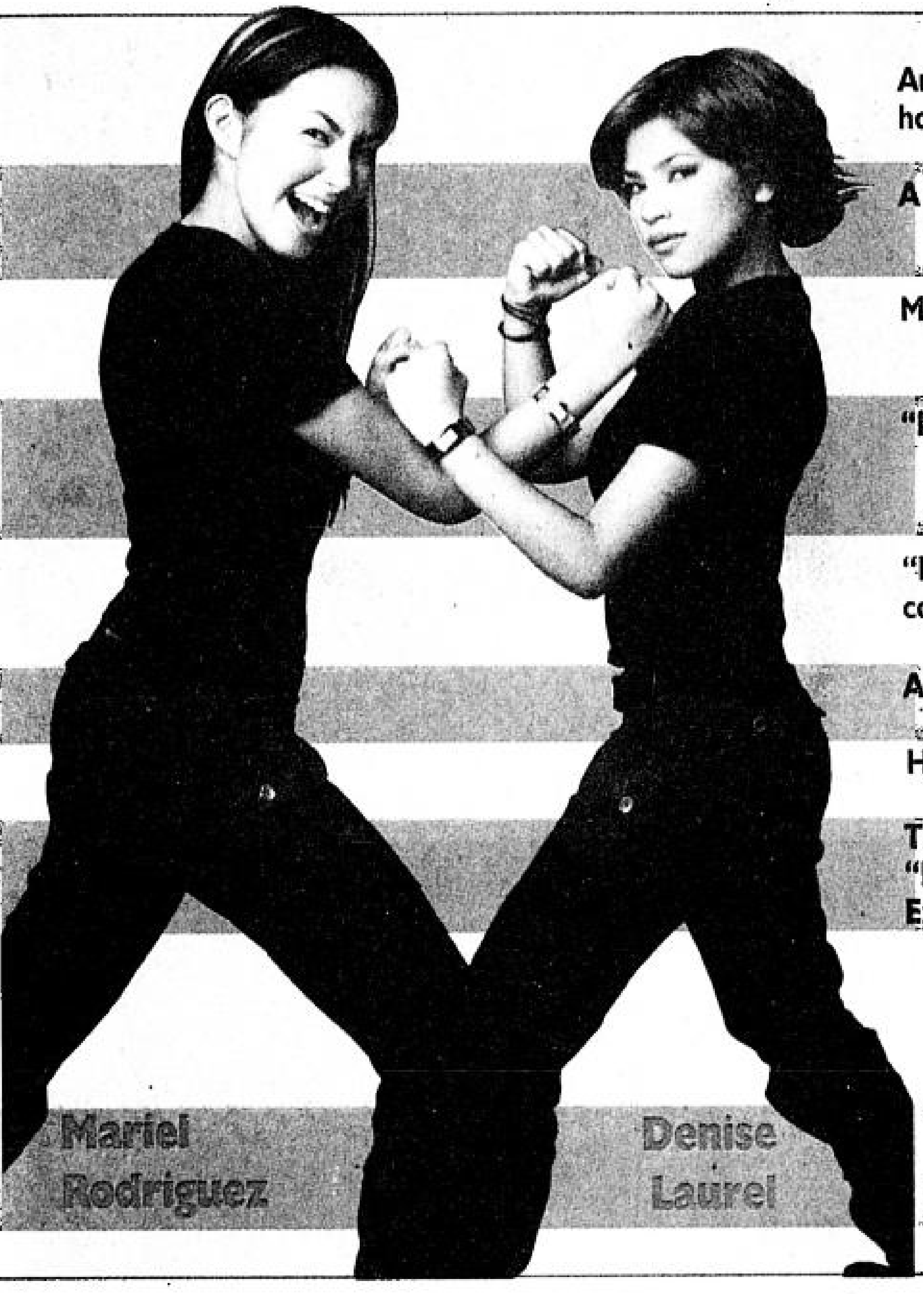
I'VE always loved performing. When I got my first gig on local TV, I was incredibly thrilled. So imagine my surprise when I passed the audition for a role in a new MTV Asia show called Rouge. I was ecstatic—my family had to deal with my shrieks and screams for days.

Of course, getting the role meant I had to leave the comforts of my real home and my home on the set of Click. But I was excited to experience new and bigger things and as it turned out, I didn't even have to wait long.

Within a week of finding out that I got the role, Mariel Rodriguez and I flew to Singapore to get started on production. There, we learned that we were going to work with some heavyweights. Prior to filming Rouge, I've kept a low profile in local show biz and so has Mariel, who, at that time, was just concentrating on commercials. In contrast, Pierre Png, who plays Hong (our version of Bosley),

Rouge Against the machine

Weapon of choice	A bat "...because it's really easy to use!"	Arnis sticks (she actually knows how to use 'em!)
Character they'd love to add on the show	Jennifer Garner	A love interest
Local celebrity you'd love to rescue	Jericho Rosales	My boyfriend
Killer karaoke song	"Like a Virgin" by Madonna. "But only when all us girls sing it!"	"My All" by Mariah Carey
Costume you want to wear	A geisha	"I wanna be dressed as a real guy, complete with a mustache!"
Bad habit	Cleaning her ears all the time	Always eating before sleeping
Fighting footwear of choice	Sneakers	Heels
Character you'd love to play	Villain. "I think it's very challenging."	The lead that everyone loves and pities "Because I'm always playing the villain! Except in Rouge, of course."
If you were to rename the band Rouge, what would you call it	Rainbow Babies. "At least, that's what my character says on the show..."	Rogue ("...because everyone keeps mispronouncing it anyway")
Rubber, spandex, or leather?	Spandex. "I've had a bad experience with rubber and leather..."	Spandex!



ACCESSORIES AND APPAREL BY FOSSIL

MARTA Araneta in Louis Claparols

EVITA by Ivarluski Aseron

Click your heels

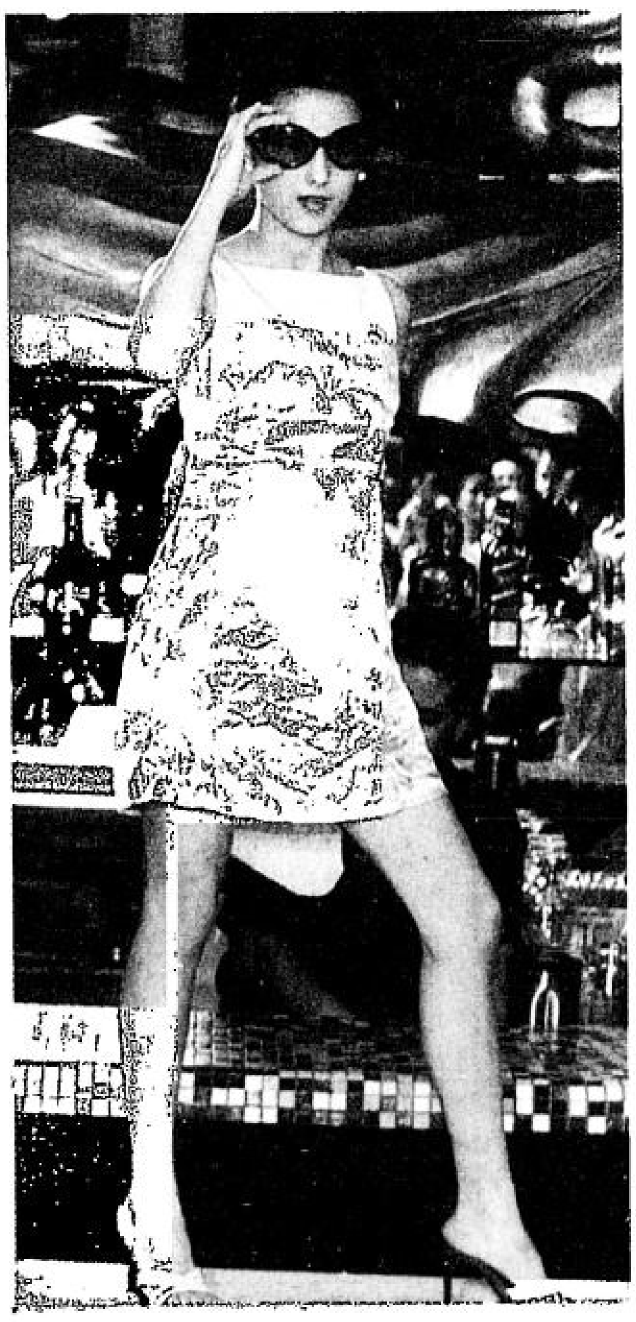
By David Milan

VNC, the latest Asian shoe sensation to hit Manila, recently had a fashion show at Temple Bar that featured iconic women dressed up by young avant-garde designers like Ivarluski Aseron, Louis Claparols,and Kate Torralba. Fatally Femme's Amanda Griffin, Bianca Zobel and Celine Gabriel made sure the girls had an absolutely fabulous time. And why not? There were overflowing booze and a whole new line of shoes.

Shoe fetishes, attack!

GINA Chou and Fatally Femme's Amanda Griffin

HOST Lexy Schulze


JACKIE O. Isabella Estrella in a Kate Torralba

IMELDIFIC by

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# of Rouge

NISE, Mariel, Desiree, and Pierre

DENISE says, "Here's where we become space-age movie stars!"

Lizette Claudio
otos by Finn

WE love action heroines. They get down and become dirty, they kick ass, and they still look great doing it. Enter the ladies of Rouge, V's new action series featuring four crime-fighting se- t spies moonlighting as rock stars in a band also ned Rouge. Think of them as a darker and tougher sion of Josie and the Pussycats, except they're all ans. In fact, two of the lead stars are Filipinos, giving nother reason to cheer and do flying kicks.

imple and unassuming, the two Filipina stars of ige, Denise Laurel and Mariel Rodriguez, are not your ical international stars. Denise takes a cab to shuttle ween tapings and photo shoots; Mariel rushes to her rviews after long days of classes at the De La Salle versity. On the show, they display their martial arts ls, and they get to wear sexy and sassy costumes all time. Super! sat them down for a face-off to see ich one was wittier and naughtier!

ouge, which is presented by leading watch, accessory apparel label Fossil, airs every Thursday at 8:30 ., with replays on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. and Tues- s at 12 a.m. on MTV UHF Channel 41.

Louis Claparols

is a matinee idol in Singapore. Dozens of fans follow him wherever we go. And I can't help but look up to our special guest star, Deanna Yusoff from Malaysia, who is also a famous and incredibly talented celebrity in her country.

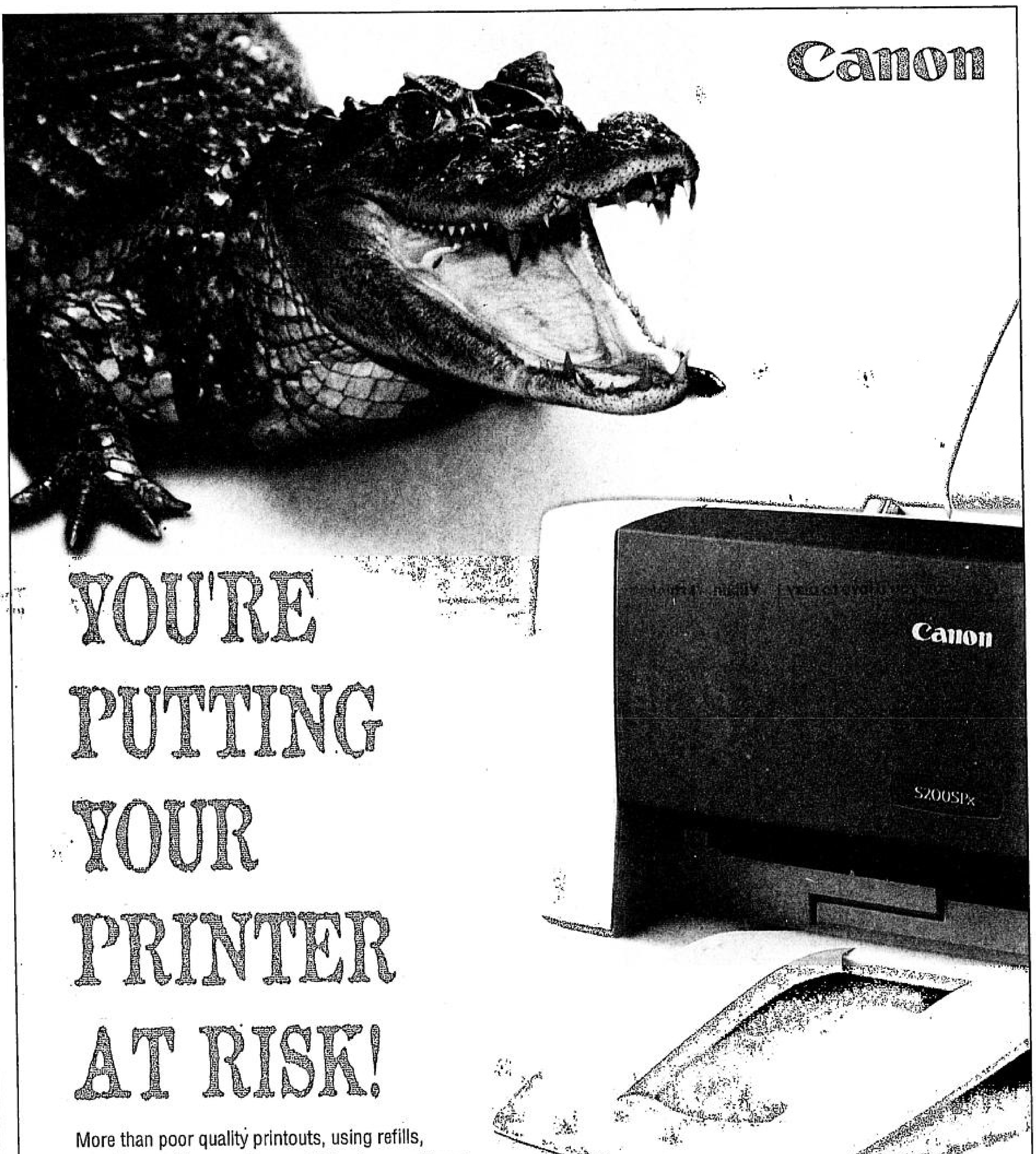
Naturally, I had thought they would be standoffish. But was I pleased to be wrong. Pierre, Deanna, and the other stars we worked with were all incredibly nice, and wacky, too! Pierre made funny faces during takes when the camera wasn't on him, which made us mess up our lines all the time.

However, I am a professional; so as much as I'd love to paint you a picture of how fun and cool the whole experience was, the truth is that, while the cast and crew had loads of fun, we also suffered seemingly endless working days. We worked long hours on location and we always had to run off to fit our costumes or have our makeup done. We had to change our hairstyle (I totally changed my look!) for the show, we had to go through a strenuous boot camp, and we had to learn how to speak with different accents. After all, we were supposed to play martial arts experts with incredibly high IQs!

Despite being stuck at work every single day for nearly six months, I loved every moment of it and I wouldn't have it any other way. As I write this, I've seen only the first episode, but I'm not about to seize the MTV offices and demand to see the rest of the tapes. I've got all the scenes I want replayed already stored in my head.

MARIEL, Denise, Pierre, Desiree and Veronica on their way to board the Rouge jet

Canon



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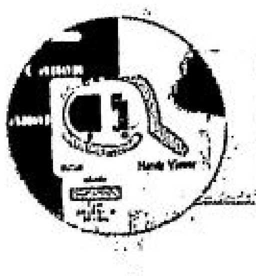
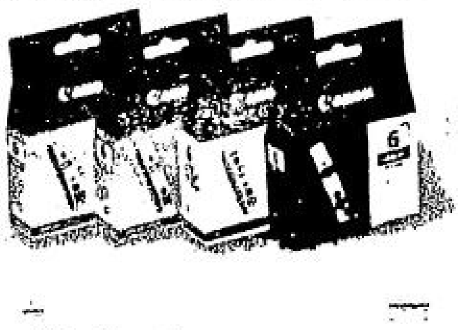
So if you think you're saving money by purchasing refills, fake ink cartridges, and compatibles, think again. You'll pay dearly with costly repairs and sacrifice the life of your printer itself.



To be sure that you got genuine Canon Inks, use the Canon Handy Viewer to look at the Canon Security Sticker—the left hole should be black, while the right hole should contain the Canon logo.



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Oh caption my caption!

Text by Gino de la Paz

WHAT has four legs, lucrative endorsements and flies? Jericho and Piolo! Those two were the main attractions in last week's caption contest which, we have to say, was trickier than usual. Despite the stumper, we're extremely proud that all of you rose to the challenge and sent in your theories regarding the mysterious i2i billboard duo. One of you ended up at the top of the heap, however, since his wordplay had the right amount of mischief mixed in with a staggering sense of originality. Congratulations, Russell Lavapie! Your witty word wizardry made you the Super! caption genius of the week!

To find out what you won, please call our Marketing Department at 897-8808 and ask for the lovely Ching. Don't forget to present a valid photo ID when claiming your prize, Russell!

Before we forget, here's a roll call of the other sharp ones that made our day:

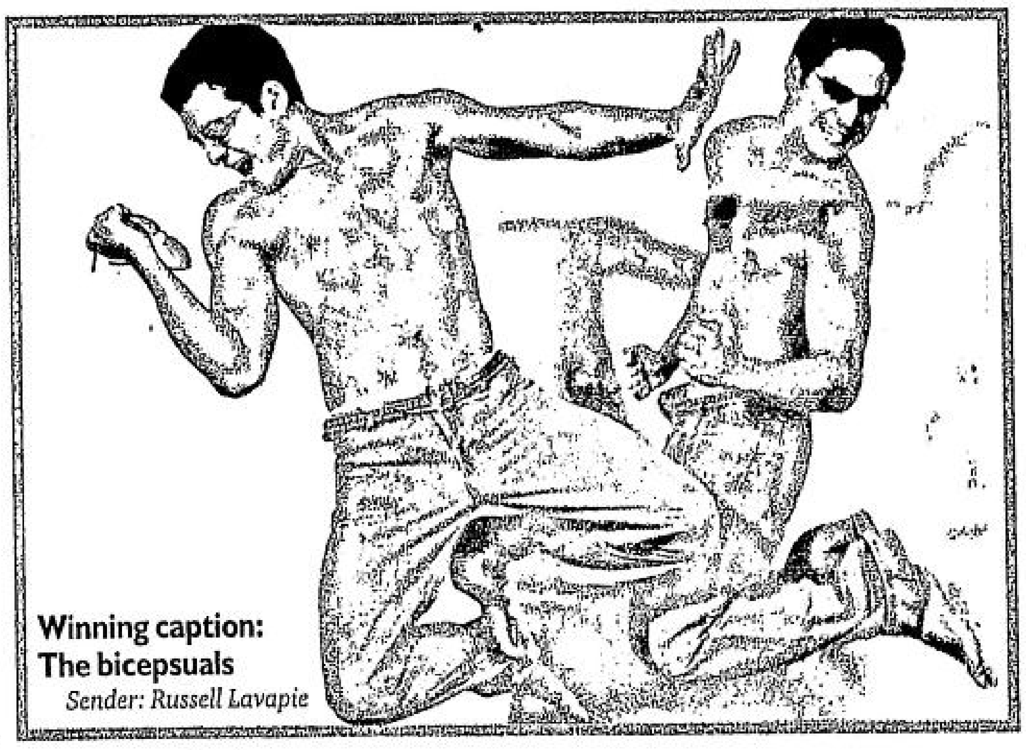
Sarah & Bea trust only Charmee!
–Sender: Melvin Campo

Sayaw Kikay!
–Sender: Fatimah Imam

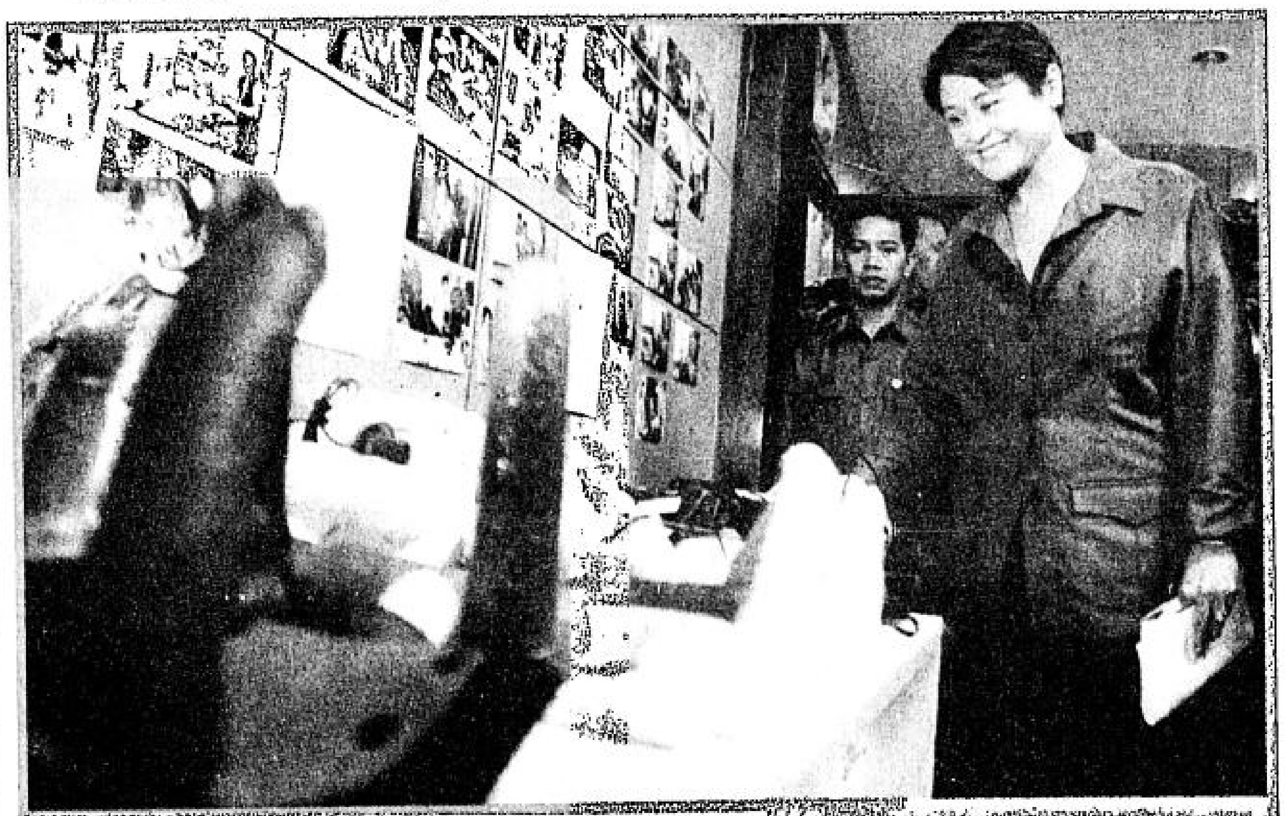
Pare ipiiiiis!
–Sender: Don Alcantara

Oh, *tukso! Layuan mo ako...*
–Sender: Lib Einst

Hmmmm... Musclelicious
–Sender: Cynthia Nable



Winning caption: The bicepsuals
Sender: Russell Lavapie



OUR CAPTION: Super size me!

This week's challenge

Trick or treat! Once again, it's time to break out those masks, costumes and a fondness for light-hearted, PG-13 fun. This Halloween weekend, Super! would like you to meet Sen. Jamby Madrigal. What could be running through her mind as she looks at these, er, confiscated prophylactics? Horror? Delight? The thought that somewhere, somehow, she could end up as this week's challenge? Well, we can't read your minds so you have to spell it out for us through your captions! As always, we will judge them based on wit, economy and tasteful bravado. (Wink, wink.) Caption away at super@inquirer.com.ph or send inquirer super name/city /caption to 2207 for Globe or 283 for Smart. The closing date for this week's contest is Thursday, Nov. 4. Have a Super! spooktacular Halloween!

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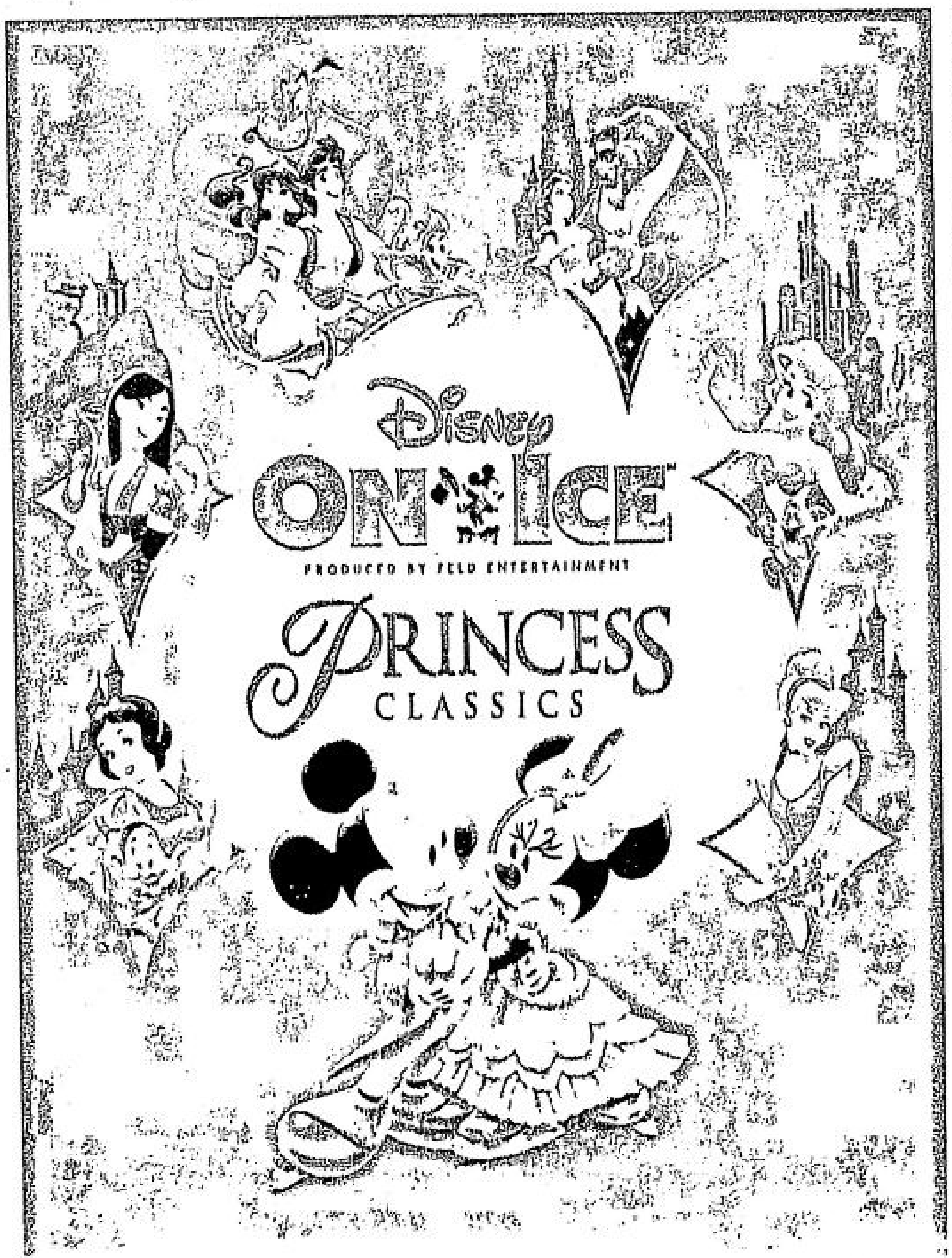
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Super 5
pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Oh no, it's Johnny, Tessa and Anton!

But where's Maurice?

Tim Yap

Photos by Willy Saw

JUST like the main section of the papers, television brings forth a whole gamut of depressing reality based characters that make the public's already bleak lives even darker.

Enter Johnny Litton, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Anton San Diego—known for their carefree candor and lifestyles that rival that of Robin Leach. Johnny hobnobs with the country's elite on a daily basis, Tessa party hops with the stylish set while Anton maintains links with his exclusive circles that social aspirants would salivate over. On the surface, their newspaper columns and glossy magazine pages chronicle a world where air kisses are blown and champagne clinks reign.

Of course that is not their end all, be all. Johnny in truth is an old world gentleman whose contribution to the film distribution industry is unparalleled. Tessa beneath the feathers and the flowers is truly about women empowerment, and Anton, all agog with fashion and brands, is a staunch advocate of the Pinoy achiever in the global arena.

With their new show, "Look Who's Talking," the terrific trio provides the public a key hole to peek into what's happening within the halls of power in the Philippines. Escapist entertainment? Entertainment nonetheless. In a country like ours, a balance between the negative and the positive is part and parcel of a democratic society.

Without batting an eyelash

More than just showcasing the lifestyles of the rich and the famous, this new ABC 5 show hopes to feature the people who have faith in our country, from investors to tycoons and other people of great influence.

I had lunch with the trio, and noticed that our beloved *palangga* was missing. His segment on social behavior was one of the most awaited parts of the now defunct "Oh No It's Johnny" during its heyday. It turns out, as Johnny and the producers said, that Maurice Arcache did not fit the show's new format.

I spotted Maurice Arcache one night at Nuvo and asked him if he had any ill feelings towards his colleagues about the casting of the new show. Without batting an eyelash, he smiled and said, "You know what? How can I be mad with my dearest, three good friends. I wish them all the best. That's the best thing I can say to them."

I asked Moe Moe what his plans are, and with a cheerful disposition, he winked at me. "Well, you know—you close one chapter and you open a new chapter. There are one or two offers—oh I shouldn't have said that. But let's leave it at that."

For this Super! exclusive Halloween shoot, we transform the "Look Who's Talking" trio into horror's most well loved family.

Tim Yap: What will set this show apart from all the other shows?

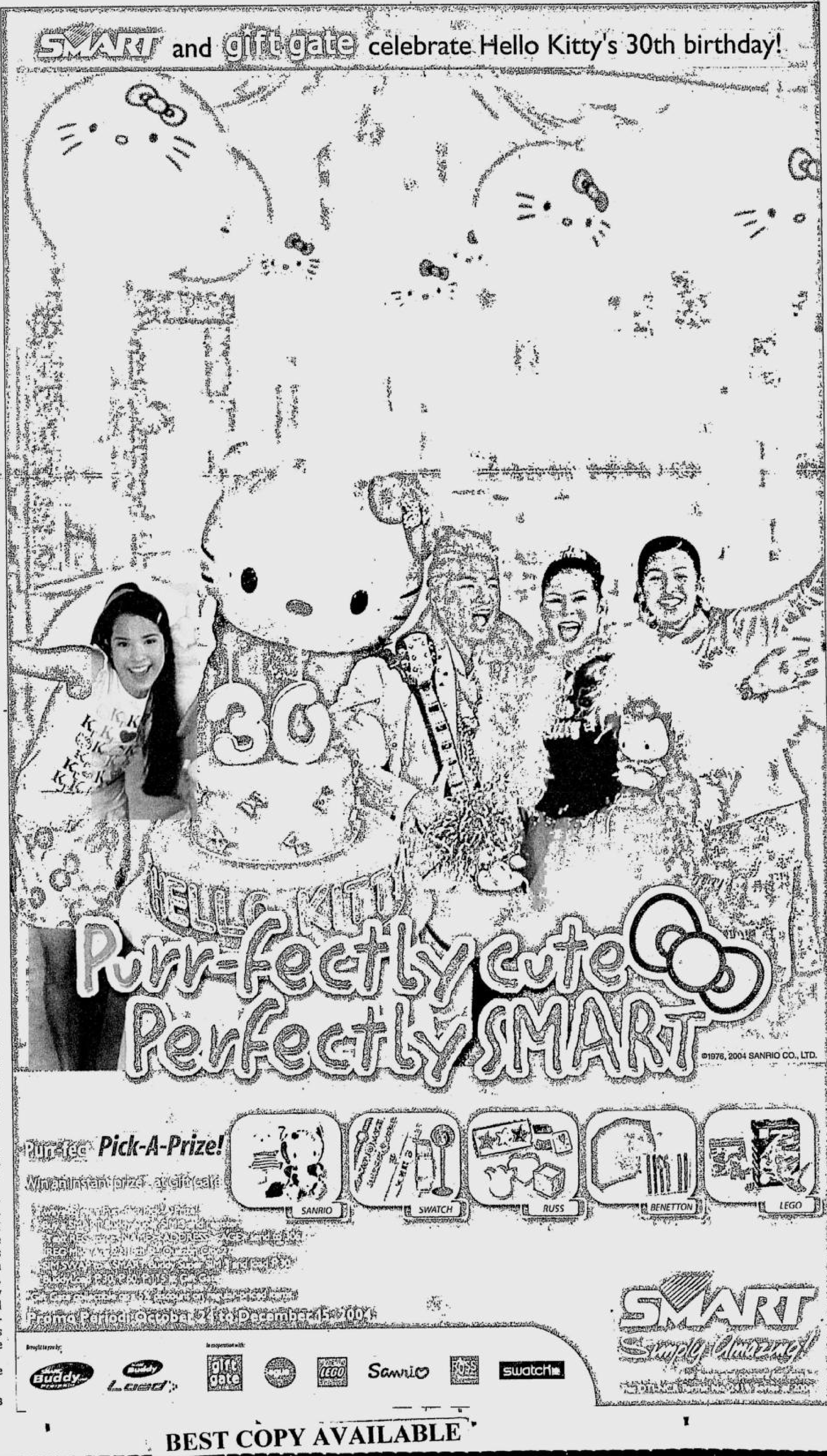
Tessa Prieto-Valdes: I think it's really the combination of us three. There's never been a show that had three most diversified styles of hosting. Each brings an element that is a combination of a day show, a local show like F and then a little bit of the The Buzz. We have some entertainment and also things that have never been in local television.

Anton San Diego: All of us have had different experiences in working places and I think that's our forte that we will bring to the show. Each of us have our own abilities.

Johnny Litton: Well, because of the different ages and different persuasions, we actually complement one another immensely. I bring in the older group, the chairman of the board, the mature, the business group. Tessa's able to penetrate like the Bench events, Anton goes to Hong Kong and covers the Tatler Ball. I bring in the president of BMW. We interview Francis Lumen. It's a beautiful collection. And no one has ever done that before. And without sounding to be *mayabang* the three of us can open doors that normally would not be accessible to other TV shows.

TY: How do you guys react when people say that you are elitist?

OH NO/ G3


SMART and gift gate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!
30
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SUPER! SCOOP—THE NEW SWATCH MAN

Introducing Matteo Guidicelli

By Tim Yap
Photos by Monique Villonco

He's a karting champion, a mobile service and clothing line endorser and the new Swatch man—and he's only 14

"WHO is he?"

It has been close to two decades since the veritable queen of Kitty and all things timely (that's Virgie Ramos to all of us) discovered a young Mikee Cojuangco to pitch for hip Swiss watch maker Swatch.

Forward to 2004. Meet Matteo Fernan Guidicelli—entering your households faster than a speeding bullet. As the latest Swatch-buckling endorser, Matteo drives the pulse of his audience to fever pitch. From teen-something girls to ty-something matrons, he drives them wild. Drive being the operative word, as Matteo is the youngest and most accomplished karting champion in the country.

Here are some stats. He is number one in the Philippines, ranked number two in Asia, and 26th in Europe. At his ripe old age of 14 years, he already has the makings of a world class racer.

Over dinner at Pepato, we chat up about how he juggles school and work and play altogether. He reminds me of a young Gabby Concepcion meets JC Bonnin, but with a little more innocence and meekness. His manager Joji Dingcong saw him at a launch of Penshoppe (of which he is one of the new image models) and immediately saw the vast potential of this charmer.

Of Italian and Filipino parentage, Matteo just moved to Manila from Cebu. His family moved here just to support his racing. He seems really close to his family as most of our dinner conversation revolved around these important people in his life. There is something so solid about this boy that I predict he will handle success with great stability.

Aside from his Swatch-ability, he is also one of our new brothers in the Addict family, endorsing Addict pre-paid, to be launched today at the NBC Tent and tomorrow in Boracay. He won't be in the beach though, as he has a race to attend. (We also have a full story on him in 2bu's Fast Lane issue this Wednesday.) For now, he speeds up to sign in our Super! guest book, just in Swatch time for the start of the season—the Matteo season.

The thing about fame is that the ride is fun when you're there, but you have to keep your feet on the ground.

The thing I love most about what I do is the speed.

People might be surprised to know that I'm very protective of my sister and no one can go near her without my approval.

The most important thing I've ever learned is to not look back when you're ahead of the pack. One time in a race I was always looking back then the person behind me overtook because I wasn't focused on what's ahead. This also applies in other aspects of my life.

I wish when I started off I'd been told that sometimes people take advantage of you and that you should look out for yourself.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was I lost a whole race because I was 100 grams underweight, that's less than the weight of a glass of water.

And what taught this to me was to always double check everything I do. Don't take anything for granted.

The happiest moment of my life was when I got my first endorsement deal. I never thought I'd be a model for anything. It's really cool. And I get loads of free stuff as well.

Ten years from now, I wish to be racing in F1!!!!

The secret to happiness is to enjoy life.

My best ever outfit consisted of a personalized pair of jeans that my cousin Kate Torralba made for me complete with racing accents and sponsor patches.

My Super! Saturday night consists of a house party with all my friends, no parents and partying like the night never ends!!!

The soundtrack to my life would include hip-hop, R&B and Rap.

If I were invisible for a day, I would check out the hottest teen girl ever alive.

The thing that makes me most angry is people talking behind my back.

If I was the most powerful person on earth, I would make the Philippines the richest, the most hi-tech, the most everything country in the world.

The best thing about family is that they are always there for you and whenever you need them you can count on them.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say "That Matteo was fast!"

If money were no option, I would stop the corruption in the Philippines by giving money to honest people and making the country better. And I would be living in a nice house in the beach with everything I could ever ask for with equally nice houses for my family right next door.

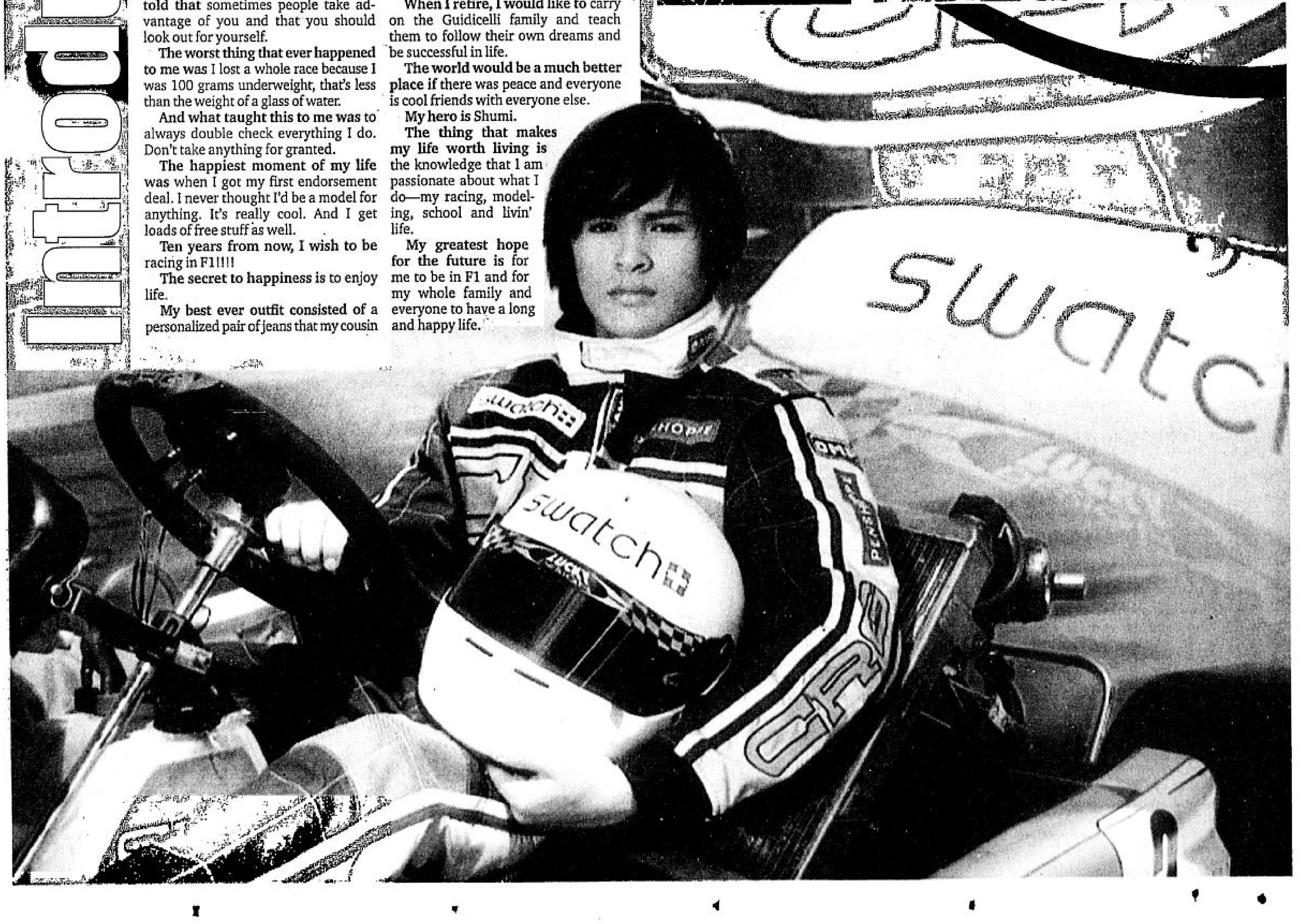
When I retire, I would like to carry on the Guidicelli family and teach them to follow their own dreams and be successful in life.

The world would be a much better place if there was peace and everyone is cool friends with everyone else.

My hero is Shumi.

The thing that makes my life worth living is the knowledge that I am passionate about what I do—my racing, modeling, school and livin' life.

My greatest hope for the future is for me to be in F1 and for my whole family and everyone to have a long and happy life.



Oh no, it's Johnny, Tessa and Anton!

From page G1

ASD: It's a matter of perception and I guess people are entitled to their own opinion about it. But once you get to know the individuals, as in everything in life, it changes. I guess the way we were brought up is totally different from some people but in the end we're all the same. It's not a big deal.

TPV: In this show, our main goal is entertainment and your viewing pleasure. It's something to watch on Wednesdays so you will sleep tight despite all these negative things happening . That's the message we really want to convey. It has nothing to do with elitism.

JL: In addition, just because there's a flood, it doesn't mean all shows must be about the flood . Ours is an alternative viewing pleasure. We will present people who will build better dams. We should always have entertainment because we are entertainers. Investigation and corruption, that's news. And just because we have an economic crisis doesn't mean we have to bring crisis at 10 o'clock at night on Wednesdays. In other words, we present an alternative. We are giving the audience a choice. We are not competing with any other similar show because there's none. It's a different kind of show. The only predictable thing in our show is that you cannot predict what will happen. You don't know what's gonna happen in the next show and that's what makes it so unique. The chemistry between the three of us is very visible on the screen.

TY: Will Maurice guest on the show?

JL: Yes, of course, like in the press launch, we invited him. Maurice will be part of Philippine television. We've been together for 13 years. You don't erase that.

SENSATIONAL SOCIETY SCRIBES. From the papers to your TV screens

ASD: We love Maurice.

JL: The thing is this is a completely different show. I don't even have a monologue. However, I would like to have a monologue. But it's not part of the design of the show. It's like you design a house, it's for entertaining and the other one is for a big living room. But for this particular show designed by the producer, unfortunately there wasn't a segment that was ideal for his talents—social manners, traveling, and style. Here it's no monologues.

TPV: Almost the whole show, the three-fourths of it is outside. It's in the field. We just do the spiels or the narration.

TY: How do you feel when people say that society doesn't have relevance these days and that there are only 500 (or less) of the same people moving around it ?

ASD: Society is a whole spectrum. It was different in the '50s and the '60s. Society now has evolved into the young, the new establishments, the "It" girls, whatever label is attached to it. It actually is composed of a lot of people. The whole spectrum is what we're trying to target. Wherever you live—Ortigas, Forbes, Parañaque.

TY: How do you feel about the influx of new magazines tackling society?

ASD: For me, the more, the merrier. It's great to have challenges in life. It's sad if there's only one. There is money to be made and people to entertain. But everyone has their own forte and they focus on that.

TY: What are the questions you've always wanted to ask one another?

Tessa (to Johnny): Have you had any other hair color other than your hair now? Have you tried blonde?

JL: No, some white hair has been growing so I dye it black. I've never tried to go blonde but I'm open to it.

JL (to Anton): Anton, with all the talents that you have, why are you so shy?

ASD: Well, I am shy.

JL: First, when we invited you to do the show, your initial reaction was negative. We had to convince you and yet you're doing very well.

ASD: Maybe TV is not my comfort zone. It's a step out of the box and I am not familiar with it. But if you ask me anything about magazines, especially my magazine, I would be confident to answer anything.

ASD (to Tessa): Why are you so weird... or eccentric?

TPV: It's my personality, it's my outlet, it's inborn, it's like shopping, it's my expression of life!

TY: Who are your dream subjects and interviews?

ASD: Definitely Tom Ford and Oprah.

JL: Prince Charles, I wanna ask him why he thinks the other lady (Camilla Parker-Bowles) is better than Princess Diana.

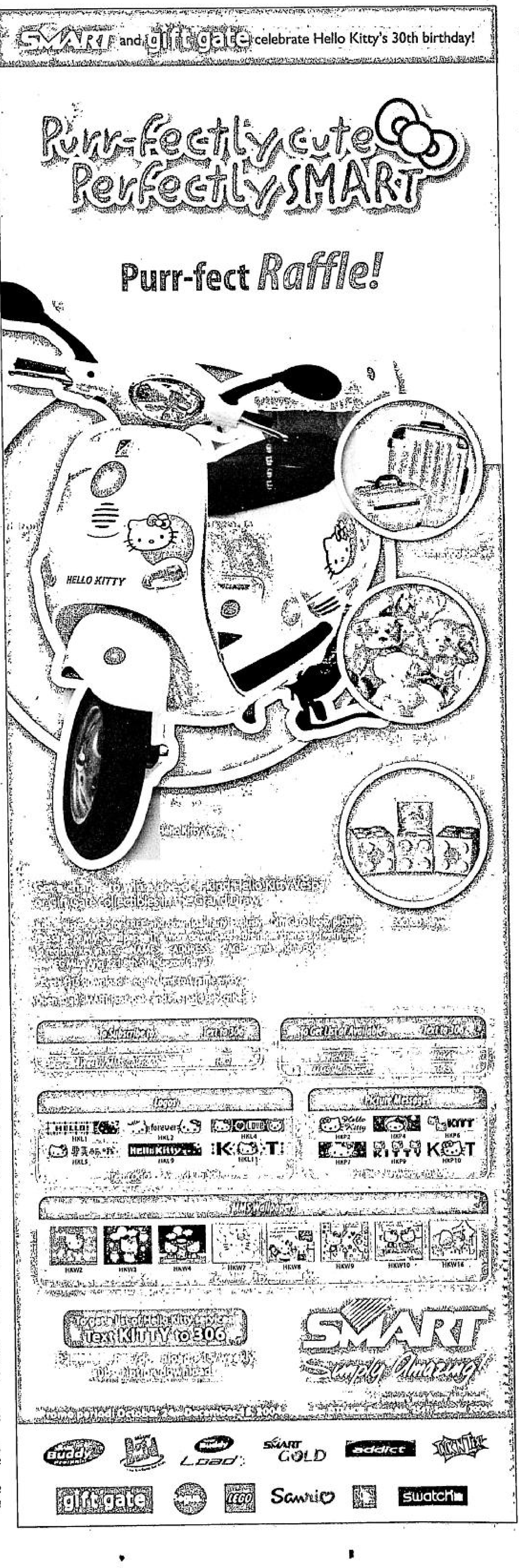
Tessa: Imelda!

TY: So what does "Look Who's Talking" stand for?

JL: Anton's talking, Tessa's talking, I'm talking. We bring events to those people who cannot participate.

Look Who's Talking will premiere next Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 10 p.m. on ABC 5.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. Anton San Diego as Gomez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes as Morticia and Johnny Litton as Fester



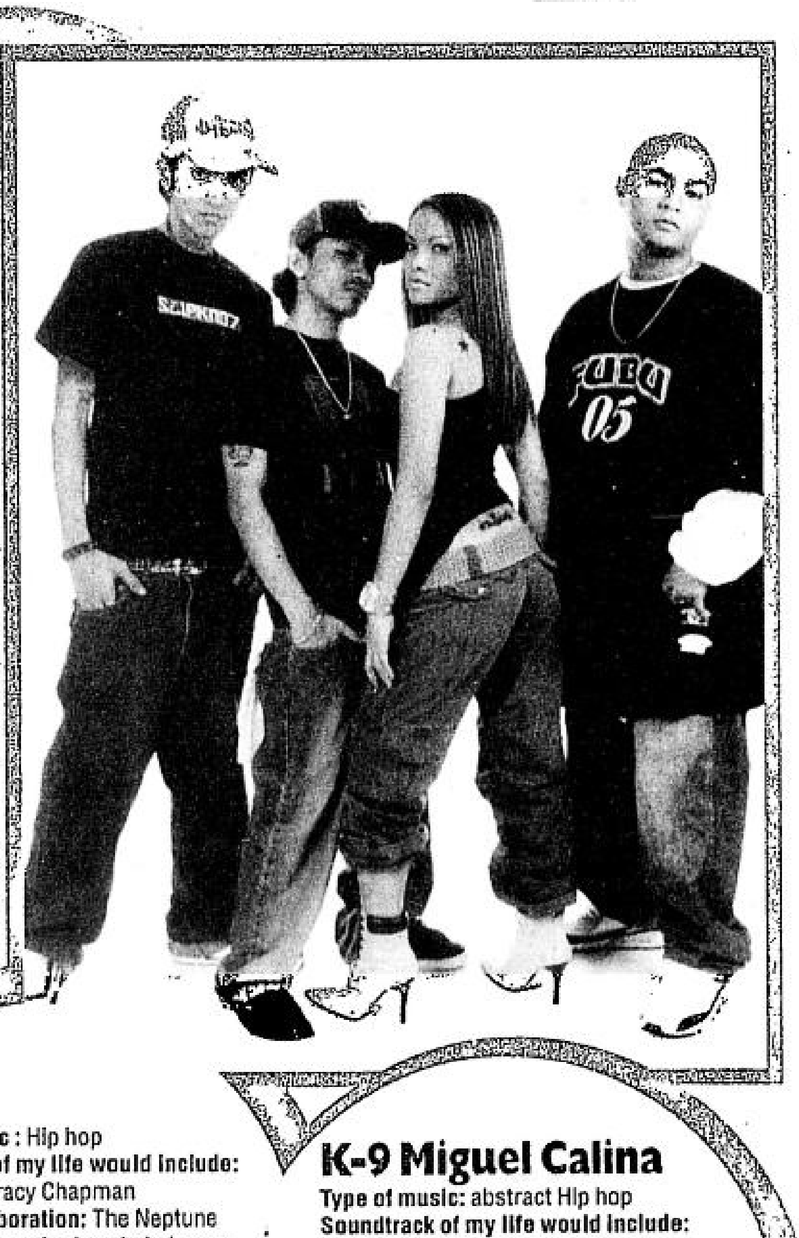
SMART and gift gate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!

Purr-fectly cute Perfectly SMART

Purr-fect Raffle!

Text KITTY to 306

Pop mo 'to



Dice

Type of music : Hip hop
Soundtrack of my life would include: Fast Car by Tracy Chapman
Dream collaboration: The Neptune
I would like to volunteer to help any charitable organization. My top priority is an organization that helps the elderly.
This Halloween, I plan: "to go out and have a killing spree. Bwahahaha!!!"
Xmas wish: to drive a brand new car.

K-9 Miguel Calina

Type of music: abstract Hip hop
Soundtrack of my life would include: Nunie's Hiding Place by eQuina
Dream collaboration: South Border
If given the chance **I would like to volunteer for** an "old people would take a crap of themselves coz their families left them and no one would want to take care of them anymore" organization for charity.
This Halloween, I plan: to stay home and play video games.
Xmas wish: for everyone to just get what they want if they are truly deserving.

By Pam Pastor and Tim Yap

LIKE a bag full of all sorts of candies from a long night of trick or treating, Warner Music's fresh roster of artists is fun, exciting and they're waiting to be shared. And no, they won't give you a toothache.

There's Kitchie Nadal who bid Mojofly goodbye and is determined to pave her own way to musical success; Christian Bautista, the charming tenor who has become a household name; Paolo Santos who can be thanked (or blamed?) for the acoustic obsession that hit the country; Pido who has been a permanent fixture in the live band circuit; Nina whose powerful vocals have earned her the respect of many; Thor, the choir boy turned R&B balladeer from Davao; Artstrong, the part-Pinoy, part-Japanese hip-hop artist; and Dice and K-9, who shot to fame with "Itsumo," a song that's bound to stick in your head for days.

On their own, these artists are a livewire act; together they are an explosive force.

You can grab your chance to witness the explosion at Warner's Pop Ko 'To The All Star, All Hits Concert on Nov. 13, 8:30 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater.

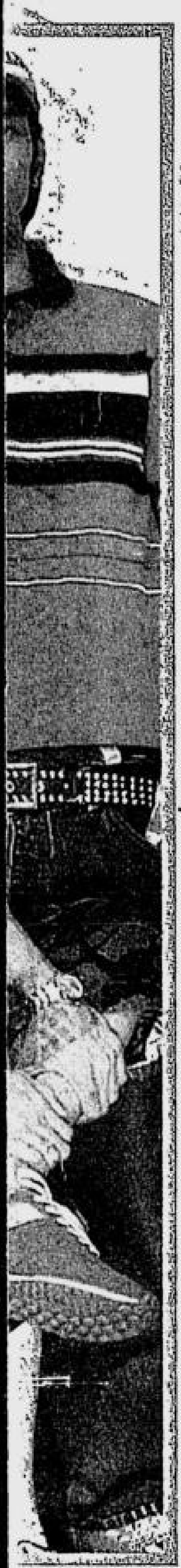
If that's not enough, you can also bring home their music by purchasing Warner Music's All-Star Christmas Collection. Let these artists' new renditions of old favorites like Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song," Bing Crosby's "I'll Be Home For Christmas," Wham!'s "Last Christmas" and "Silent Night" light up the coming holidays for you.

You've heard the music. On these pages, we give you the chance to get to know the people behind the melodies.

The All Star Christmas Collection is available at Warner Music for P280. Tickets are available at major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate, Galleria, Cavite and Pampanga), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall and Greenhills), Ayala Center Inc., Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorietta 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and at the Ticket World website (www.ticketworld.com.ph). You may also call 8919999 for inquiries and reservations.

Nina

Type of music: Pop, R&B, Acoustic
Soundtrack: Let's Stay Together
Dream collaboration: Brian Mc Knight and Mariah Carey
I would like to volunteer to work for a charitable institution that deals with children with cancer.
This Halloween, I plan:to celebrate my birthday. It falls on halloween.
Xmas wish: Outpouring of heavenly blessings in my life



Christian Bautista

Type of music: Pop/Rock
Soundtrack: When You Say You Love Me
Dream collaboration: Josh Groban
I would like to volunteer to: work for an orphanage
This Halloween, I plan: to go with my family to the cemetery. That has been our tradition. I pray for the repose of the souls of my grandparents and remember their kindness to me when they were still alive."
Xmas wish: No more piracy

Pido

Type of music: Pop fusion
Soundtrack: Deacon Blues (Steely Dan)
Dream collaboration: James Taylor
I would like to volunteer as social worker for Unicef
This Halloween, I plan: to rest and spend time with the family.
Xmas wish: Stop piracy

Kitchie Nadal

Type of music: Rock Alternative (whatever that means!)
Soundtrack: The Best Of Queen
Dream collaboration: Artstrong
I want to volunteer as a missionary to Tibet
Xmas wish: To learn how to be selfless this time!

Paolo Santos

Type of music: Pop/Rock (Acoustic)
Soundtrack: Traces Of My Tears (Smokey Robinson)
Dream collaboration: John Mayer on guitar and me singing (put smiley logo after)
I would like to volunteer as a guardian for an organization that takes care of the environment. *Parang* guardian of nature.
This Halloween, I plan: to lose more weight and scare more people. Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha!!!!!
Xmas wish: That we finally acquire world peace

Artstrong

Type of music: global neo-soul, jazz/hip hop, fusion
Soundtrack: Have Yourself A Merry Little Xmas ("coz I just want to have simple and meaningful Xmas")
Dream collaboration: N.E.R.D., Outkast, Eryka Badu
Charitable organization: charity for the refugees at the UN but for now "let me handle my bizz" coz I myself feels like a refugee. *hehehe*... Help! *hehe*.
This Halloween, I plan: to go out of town to relax in a beach coz I bet it's gonna be hell of a Halloween here in Manila.

Thor

Type of music: Soul R&B
Soundtrack: Believe In Me, "Win" by Brian Mc Knight
Dream collaboration: Brian Mc Knight, Stevie Wonder, Beyoncé
Anything for charity, **I am willing to volunteer** and work for free.
This Halloween, I plan: to go to the cemetery to pay respects to my departed loved ones.
Xmas wish: Contentment and happiness to all

SMART and gift gate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!

Purr-fectly cute Perfectly SMART

Purr-fect Gift for your SMART Kid!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2485, Series of 2004.

SMART Kid
The Cellfone for Kids
or
Plan 600
or
Plan 300
gift gate
SMART
Simply Amazing!

YOU'LL never be lonely with this purr-fect Hello Kitty ensemble

LITTLE twin Tokyo stars

BJORK goes to Tokyo

UKAY chic goes global

RED RIBBON goes shopping

MIX MATCH in all the wrong places

HELLO Kitty greets you a merry Christmas!

THE WITCH beggar look

Sushi Samba

By Pam Pastor
Photos from the book "Fruits" by Shoichi Aoki

WHILE some people get a kick out of donning fangs, fake blood and gangrenous skin during scary season, not everyone desires to look unattractive on a night out with ghosts and goblins.

And who says you have to be?

Dressing up for Halloween is not synonymous with being ugly.

In fact, if you're not normally adventurous when it comes to fashion, now is your time to be. You've got the perfect excuse—it's Halloween! And if your outfit is a failure, you can always say you intended it to be.

Dare to wear pieces you wouldn't normally wear, put together combinations you wouldn't normally attempt. Raid the nearest *ukay-ukay*, bring out those colorful socks, the crazy shoes, the rainbow-colored skirts and the giant pants, head off to Gift Gate and grab a Hello Kitty accessory or two and strut your sassy style.

Take the cue from these Japanese fashion popsters.

Dressing up for Halloween is not synonymous with being ugly

HOMELESS in Shinjuku

MARS attacks Japan

KISS my kitty

I'M NOT GAY. Just a bit weird

POST-MODERN [illegible]

STIFF [illegible]

PIERCE me, baby, two more times

MISSY and Christina: two jellyfish out of water

FIRESTARTA

SMART and gift gate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!

Purr-fectly cute Perfectly SMART

Purr-fect Discount!

10% Discount

[illegible]

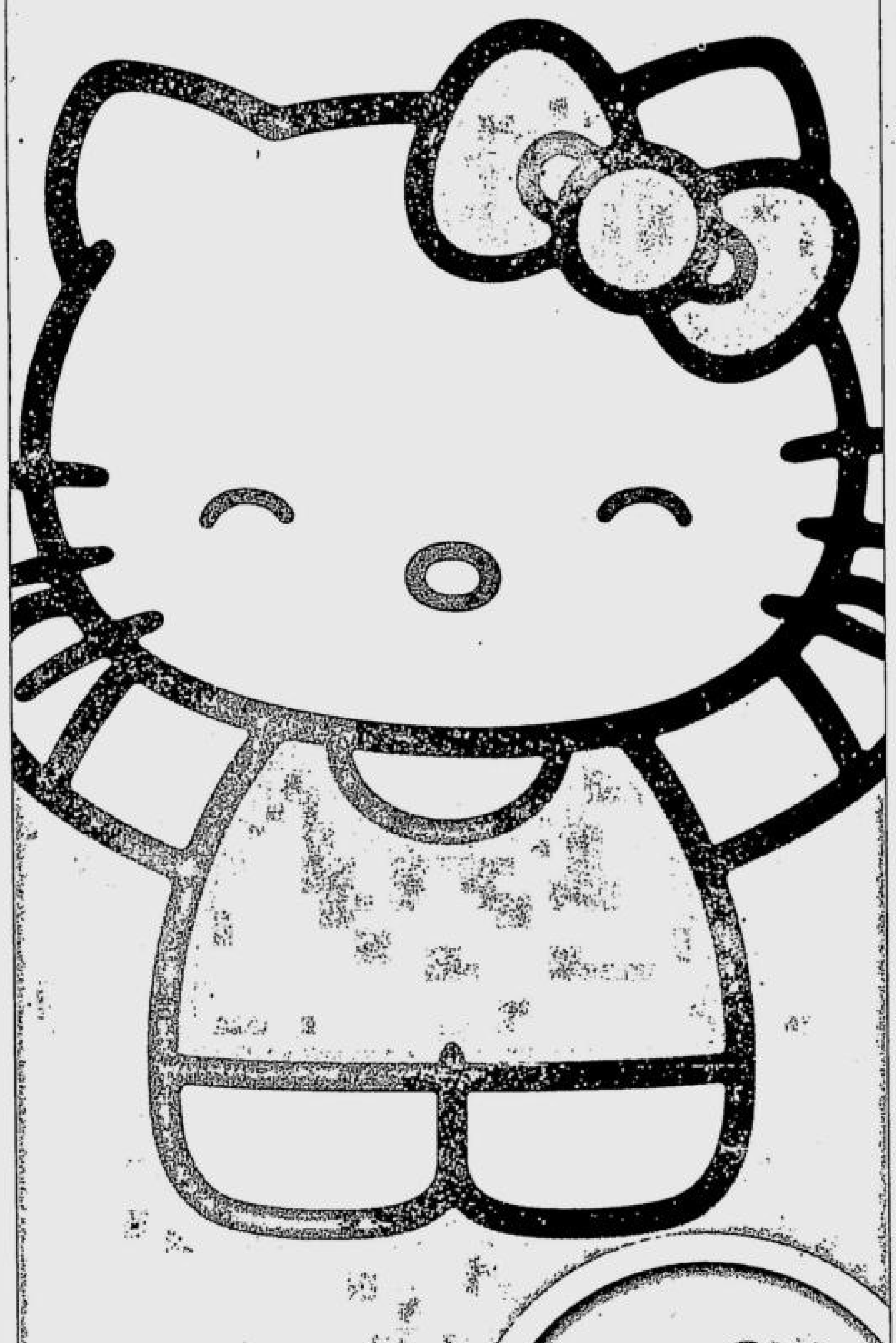
SMART GOLD

Money

gift gate

SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5258, Series of 2004.



Mel Lim

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: Lara Croft
The things that I am most afraid of are: Worms, reptiles and... math!
My scariest experience was when: I took my Math finals!
I will spend my Halloween at: Alabang or at a friend's house
Email me at: cmelanielim@hotmail.com

Jean Decangchon

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: A dark angel!
The thing that I am most afraid of is: The dark
My scariest experience is whenever: I finish watching horror movies
I will spend my Halloween at: Cream
Email me at: jeanie_d10@yahoo.com

Jayson Tan

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: Eddie Gil
The thing that I am most afraid of is: Losing my girlfriend, my family and friends
My scariest experience was when: I saw a long-haired guy roaming around our house
I will spend my Halloween at: Home
Email me at: jaysontan@hotmail.com

Nikita Sambile

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: Tinkerbell
The things that I am most afraid of are: Reptiles and rats
My scariest experience was when: I thought I saw an image of a guy at my bedroom window
I will spend my Halloween at: Cream and a friend's Halloween party
Email me at: nikisambile@yahoo.com

Jolene Fransisco

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: One of the powerpuff girls
The thing that I am most afraid of is: Too much happiness... because depression might come after it
My scariest experience was when: I stayed at my grandparents' house and felt spirits roaming around the house
I will spend my Halloween at: Cream
Email me at: sexyjoe9@hotmail.com

SuperFriends!

Text and photos by David Milan

Spooktacular! Spooktacular! Halloween is here, so Super! went kitty hunting around Manila and found purrfectly smart partyphiles getting their costumes ready for Halloween. They shared Super! scary experiences that made their jaws drop and eyes pop! What a purrfect season for partying! Wanna join us as a super friend? Email us at: super@inquirer.com.ph

Tippy Enriquez

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: A Hed Kandi chick!
The things that I am most afraid of are: Ghosts
My scariest experience was when: I felt someone touching my neck—but there was no one around
I will spend my Halloween in: Baguio with my family
Email me at: tippy_enriquez@yahoo.com

Michael Alvarez

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: A kick-ass pirate
The things that I am most afraid of are: Ancestral houses because of the stories that surround them.
My scariest experience was when: I imagined I saw a white lady floating in the middle of a ricefield when I was on my way home from Baguio
Email me at: mikealvarezxii@yahoo.com

Claudine Baron

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: Wilma Flintstone
The things that I am most afraid of are: Cockroaches! Eew!
My scariest experience was when: We went to the Manila Film Center three years ago
I will spend my Halloween at: Home—giving out candies and cream!
Email me at: claudbaron@yahoo.com

Niño Lucero

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: B-rad Gluckman
The things that I am most afraid of are: Bees
My scariest experience was when: I crashed my car into a concrete wall
I will spend my Halloween at: C-R-E-A-M!
Email me at: lucerroo@yahoo.com

Elaine Uyecio Lua

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: A hot, sexy nurse!
The thing that I am most afraid of is: losing my family and friends
My scariest experience was when: Way back in Florida, we were canoeing and an alligator popped out of nowhere!
I will spend my Halloween at: Cream, baby!
Email me at: ely_lu333@yahoo.com

Mel Martinez

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: One of the "Mean" Girls
The thing that I am most afraid of is: Losing my friends and loved ones
My scariest experience was when: (According to my *yaya*) I was talking to a "little" friend when I was a kid.
Email me at: mel_martinez@yahoo.com

Benj Tomwong

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: Zoolander
The things that I am most afraid of are: Heights
My scariest experience was when: I almost killed a kid while driving
I will spend my Halloween at: Cream
Email me at: benj_ttm338@yahoo.com

Kakin Santos

This Halloween, I'll dress up as: M-Y-S-E-L-F
The thing that I am most afraid of is: Rage Against the Machine
My scariest experience was when: I almost got into a car accident
I will spend my Halloween at: Cream
Email me at: shiva77dirtbag@yahoo.com

SMART and gift gate celebrate Hello Kitty's 30th birthday!

Design-a-Tee

Purr-fect *Design!*

Cut, sew, accessorize or dye the official Hello Kitty t-shirt in any way you like.

The official Hello Kitty Design-A-Tee t-shirt is available at all Gift Gate and Sanrio Surprises Stores nationwide. Submit your Hello Kitty t-shirt design in a hanger and wrapped in plastic with the entry form at any participating store until Nov. 30, 2004 within mall hours.

First Prize P 100,000
Second Prize P 50,000
Third Prize P 25,000
Fourth Prize P 10,000
35 Runners-up P 1,000 GC
5 SMART Special Prizes P 20,000/each

Participants may submit as many entries as they can. However, a participant can win only once and the higher priced award prevails.

Join the SMART Category, there will be 5 categories to choose from: SMART-Hello Kitty; SMART Kid-Hello Kitty, SMART Buddy-Hello Kitty, SMART Gold-Hello Kitty and Addict Mobile-Hello Kitty.

Participants will be given a SMART logo depending on the category that they chose, which they have to incorporate in their design.

The decision of the Board of Judges of the Hello Kitty Design a Tee Contest is FINAL and UNAPPEALABLE with the concurrence of the DTI.

Criteria for judging for SMART special prizes:
30% creativity
(originality of final T-shirt design)
30% SMART and Hello Kitty Treatment
(visibility of logos)
20% wearability
(can be worn with final look)
20% overall look
(impact of final creation)

Over P300,000 worth of prizes at stake!

Designing the Purr-fect Tee is 5 times the fun with SMART!

Purr-fectly cute Perfectly SMART

[illegible]

gift gate

SMART Simply Amazing

SMART Buddy · SMART GOLD · addict · SMART Kid

GUYITO WILD HUNT

REWARDS

COROLLA
ALTIS

The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito entry form in the pages of Inquirer. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

Join the fun as Inquirer celebrates 19 exciting years of giving Filipinos no less than balanced news and fearless views. Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

Prizes (One winner per item) **Grand Prize**
Toyota Altis 1.6J M/T

MONTHLY DRAW

October Draw
IPAQ rz1710 • Olympus MJU300 • Finepix a202 • Epson CX5300 Printer • 20 GB iPod • Blackberry 7230 • Canon A70 Digicam

November Draw
20 GB iPod • HP dj450 Portable Printer • Olympus MJU400 • Fujipix f402 • Epson CX5300 Printer • Panasonic X400 • Motorola MPX 200 • Motorola C380

Consolation
Palm Zire 72 • IPAQ • Olympus 400 • Finepix f401 • Epson Printer • Panasonic X500 • Panasonic X700 • Blackberry 7230 • Canon A70 Digicam Motorola E398 • Motorola C650 • Motorola V3 • 40GB iPod • 20GB iPod Motorola C650 • Panasonic X300 • Palm Zire 31 • Epson CX5300 Printer • Canon A70 Digicam

PROMO MECHANICS:

a) Each copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will contain a specially-marked coupon featuring Guyito, the broadsheet's illustrated carabao icon, hidden in one of the pages. The hidden Guyito will appear in the PDI daily from September 27 to December 14, 2004.

b) Participant can then cut-out the Guyito coupon, write down legibly his/her name, address, contact number and affix signature on the blanks provided, and send to Philippine Daily Inquirer offices or drop in drop boxes. Only original Guyito coupons will be considered valid entries. Original coupons are marked with the Guyito Wild Hunt promo logo.

c) Only one Guyito coupon will be featured in each Inquirer issue from Monday to Saturday. There will be two Guyito coupons featured in Inquirer every Sunday.

d) There are two ways to send entries:
   1. Mail to:
      Guyito Wild Hunt: Inquirer 19th Anniversary Promo
      c/o PDI Building Don Chino Roces Avenue,
      Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
   2. Drop in drop boxes located at the following:
      Robinsons Movieworld cinema lobbies (all branches)
      Glorietta Mall
      Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
      Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
      Greenbelt 1 Cinema Lobby
      Greenbelt 1 Mall
      Greenbelt 3 Customer Service
      Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby
      Alabang Town Center Mall
      Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby
      Ayala Center Cebu Mall
      Ayala Center Cebu Cinema Lobby
      Netopia (all branches)
      LBC (all branches)

e) For the monthly draws, deadline of entries are on October 17 and November 17. Monthly winners will be drawn on October 22 and November 22, 3pm, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office. Winners will be notified thru a phone call and registered mail from a Philippine Daily Inquirer representative. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the succeeding draws. The list of monthly winners will be published within two weeks after the draw.

f) Deadline of entries for the grand draw is on December 14. Mailed-in entries must be received by December 17. Grand draw and consolation prize winners will be drawn on December 21, 2004 at 12nn. Grand prize winner will win a brand new Toyota Altis.

g) A winner can only win once per draw. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value. Prize categories are: monthly prize, consolation prize, and grand prize.

h) All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.

i) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

j) For more questions call Ms. Ching dela Cruz of Inquirer's Marketing Department at 897-8808 loc 237.

k) Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Inquirer office indicated on the registered mail. Winners may claim their prize from October 18.

l) All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
   (1) Two valid IDs with complete real name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (i.e. birth certificate, marriage contract, SSS ID, driver's license, school ID and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
   (2) Registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer sent to the winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt raffle draw.
   (3) Representative's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through a representative)

m) All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last) from an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.

n) All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.

PROMO EXCLUSIONS:

All employees of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Harrison Communications and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.

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Per DTI Permit No. 2147, Series of 2004.

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Think–for a change

By Marge C. Enriquez

WHEN I am worn out by the pressures and charades of this world, I hie off to Madhuban, or "Forest of Honey," in a hill station in Rajasthan, India, to give myself space. The people there have a true sense of themselves. Their words and deeds mirror the best of their souls. There is no line between their public and private personas; nor do they put on different selves for different companies. Their values are reflected in their daily speech and activity.

One of the residents and lecturers who have always inspired me is Denise Lawrence, British-born communicator and author of a course for self-growth, the Diploma in Education in Values and Spirituality. The modules are based on her insights gained from the teachings of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, an NGO affiliated with the United Nations. Last issue, Élan wrote about maintaining integrity in relationships without acting or sounding holier-than-thou, based on our interviews with Lawrence. Some readers have asked for more.

Disturbing process

Back in Manila from my latest trip, friends updated me on current world news. As the conversations deepened, they lamented such matters as the travails of doing business, the corruption that went all the way up the bureaucracy, controversies in society, and the quality of information presented in media. They concluded that the pathetic state of the world today is due to our lack of values.

My conversations with Lawrence came to mind. I believe that media has a role in making people think and helping them set the agenda in values formation. To develop our values and defend them, she said, we have to take a good look at ourselves. In the values course that she designed, students keep track of the depth and quality of their thoughts by writing about and evaluating these thoughts every week in a manual of personal progress.

"Basically, it brings you face to face with yourself," Lawrence said. "It can be disturbing, because normally people just don't face their issues or do what it takes to come to terms with themselves. It's a way of bringing it all up and say, 'Hey look at yourself.' Most people are not deep, but I want them to go deep. I know that people do have opinions about issues... and it's everybody's right, but they have to back up those opinions. I'd like them to learn the difference between having a considered opinion and expressing a prejudice and preconception."

Provoke them

How can one convince people to think, when they are preoccupied with narcissistic pursuits and gossip?

"You provoke them," she replied. "Everyone has experienced difficulties. Everyone has been betrayed, everyone has lied, been afraid, yet they don't have the vocabulary for it. Once you start pushing them, some naturally break down; others get angry. A space is created which says 'It's okay. Let's go through this and come out the other side.' People get in touch with their emotions, with their pain, with their ego defenses—and grow."

The thrust of Élan is to deliver serious, thoughtful and quality articles. It sets itself apart, not so much with a reportage on the concerns of the elite as with the simplicity and sobriety of the contents. Generally speaking, when media makes people think, there is resistance. Comedian Steve Martin even joked about it once during the Oscar Awards rites. For so long, media has been associated with sensationalism or mindless pursuits.

I believe that today's readers are finally demanding substantial information that will help make sense of their lives. Lawrence explained that people prefer to be safe and sometimes superficial because of social conditioning.

"People have grown up with friends and relatives whose ways and views they've acquired," she said. "Once they start thinking deeply, they will realize a lot of things they may not want to realize, such as hypocrisy, prejudice and vices in the world—that they have become enmeshed in these. They will have to pull themselves out of it, and it's not so easy. They will have to start working on themselves. They have to emerge from self-deception and that's painful for a person."

No laughing matter

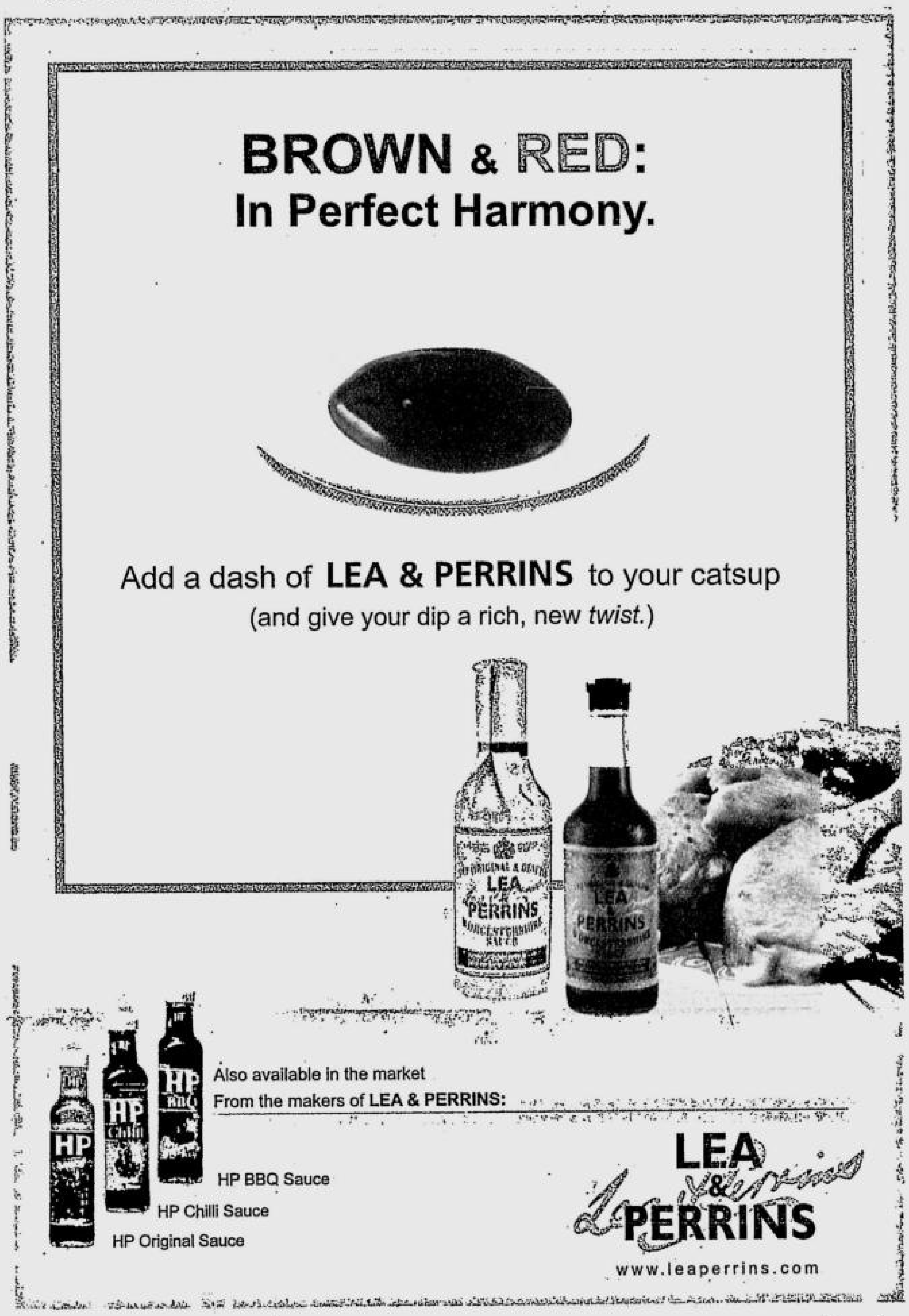
Nowadays it has become fashionable to broadcast one's superficiality. Lawrence laughed it off as self-deception. "The pain of coming clean with one's self is great. If you claim you are fluffy, you are defaming yourself. You are denying your validity and values by not developing your intellectual and cultural skills. Making yourself superficial is very painful for the soul."

Time will come, she said, when these people will be confronted by aging or by some serious ailment, and they will find themselves alone. "They will have no inner resources to deal with themselves, so they will feel void. It's like being on drugs. They are dissociated from their essential self; this is suicide."

Lawrence said journal writing teaches people to articulate, so that when somebody argues with them or challenges their values, they can defend these.

"People don't just change and become better. That's a cliché," says Lawrence. "The objective is to give people tools with which to conduct themselves and live their lives the way they want, and take responsibility for who they are and what they are doing. It teaches people to interact with others on a level of integrity."

> 'A person who proclaims he is content with shallow pursuits is being dissociated from his essential self; this is suicide.'



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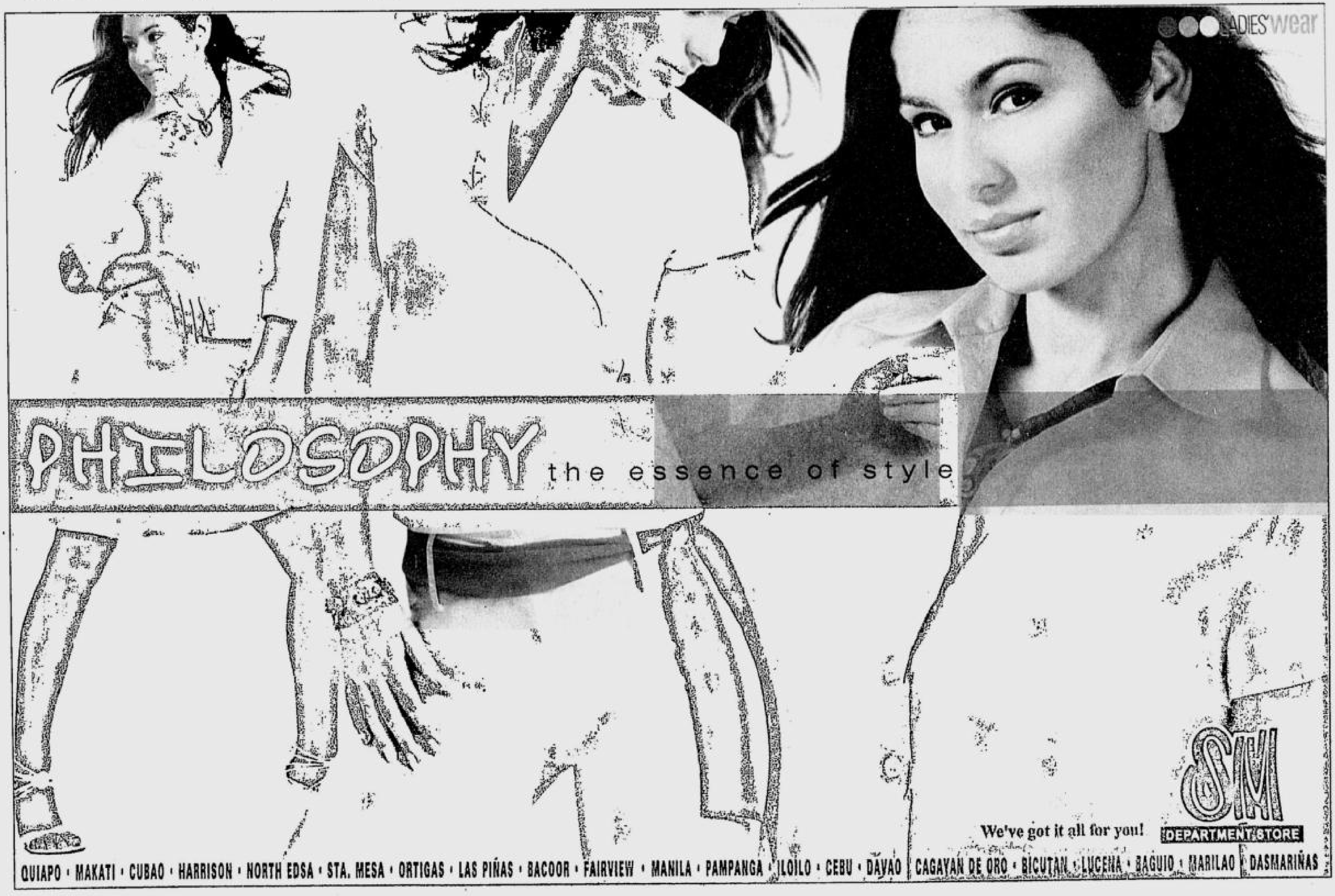

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King of thrones

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

IF YOU visit the bathroom of a man who has everything, what do you find? If it's anywhere in Asia, chances are, the room's piéce de resistance will not be the cliché sunken whirlpool bath, but a Neorest, a small, deceptively simple but ultra high-tech wash closet designed for every big shot worth his salt.

Call it the king of thrones. Or a throne fit for a king. As its maker, the Japan-based Toto likes to crow, the sleek, low, Neorest is *the* ultimate toilet, with patented features that makes it way off the scale, as luxurious bathroom fixtures go.

Consider its array of electronic gadgetry: motion sensors that cue the lid to open and shut, a quiet but powerful multi-sequential Tornado flushing system, an automatic deodorizer, an adjustable self-cleaning bidet, and a warm air dryer. This last one renders toilet paper virtually obsolete!

And for those who don't relish the feel of cold ceramic against their delicate tushies, the Neorest thoughtfully incorporates seat heaters. All features can be controlled via an accompanying LCD panel or wireless remote.

Of course the price is also way off the scale: P250,000 for this single bathroom fixture, enough money to furnish many a Filipino middle-class family's entire home. Yasuyuki "Keith" Saito, president for Philippine operations, admits that the company does not foresee much demand for the Neorest. But they are offering it locally alongside Toto's regular range of bathroom fixtures. "The Neorest is our flagship product; a symbol of Toto's commitment, not just to cutting-edge technology, but really to the more basic needs of comfort and cleanliness," he says.

Comfort room

Saito notes that Filipinos have it right when they refer to the toilet as the "comfort room." He explains: "It should be a place that is clean and bright, a source of comfort and pride to the homeowner." He notes that in his home country, the toilet used to be a "secret" place at the back of the house and was often dark and dirty. The turning point came in the 1960s, when Western-style bathroom fixtures were introduced to the average Japanese consumer. Now, Saito reveals, "about five percent" of the total construction cost of a house in Japan goes to building the bathroom.

For the local market, Toto's regular line includes the Artemis, Magnifica, Superior, Essential and Prominence line of wash closets, which are (relatively) more affordable, although still considered high-end, products, retailing from P16,000 to P40,000. Mid-range models—Le Blanc, Atlantis, Erica and Elfie—are priced at P5,000 to P15,000 and account for the bulk of the business. The economy lines, under the Mariwasa brand, go from P2,000 to P4,000.

"We are mainly targeting the middle to high-end consumer," Saito notes. "We're nurturing these segments because the market is still growing." Their edge against the competition is that their products sport details that make them pleasing to the eye and also add to their functionality.

No more bumps

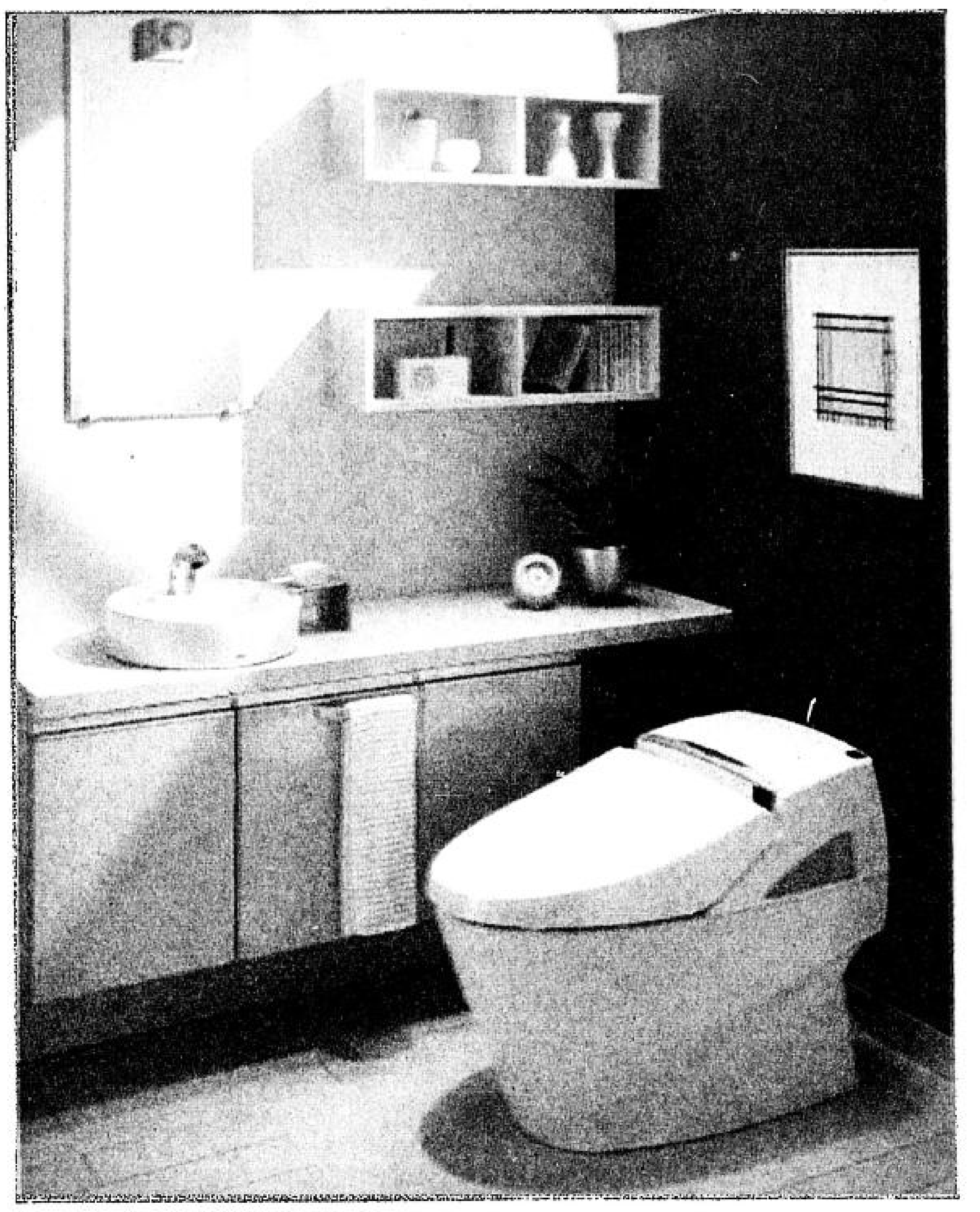
For example, Saito points to the minimalist look of Toto's newly-launched Le Blanc series: "We designed it not only to follow the minimalist trend, but also to eliminate the 'bump and hump' from the traditional shape of the toilet, making it easier to clean. There are no crevices, so you see each speck of dust."

Most mid- and high-end products also have Toto's patented Cefiomtect stain-resistant glaze and water-saving dual-flush system, making them a top choice of commercial establishments such as restaurants, malls, hotels, resorts and hospitals. The company's innovations have also been locally recognized via numerous consumers' choice awards.

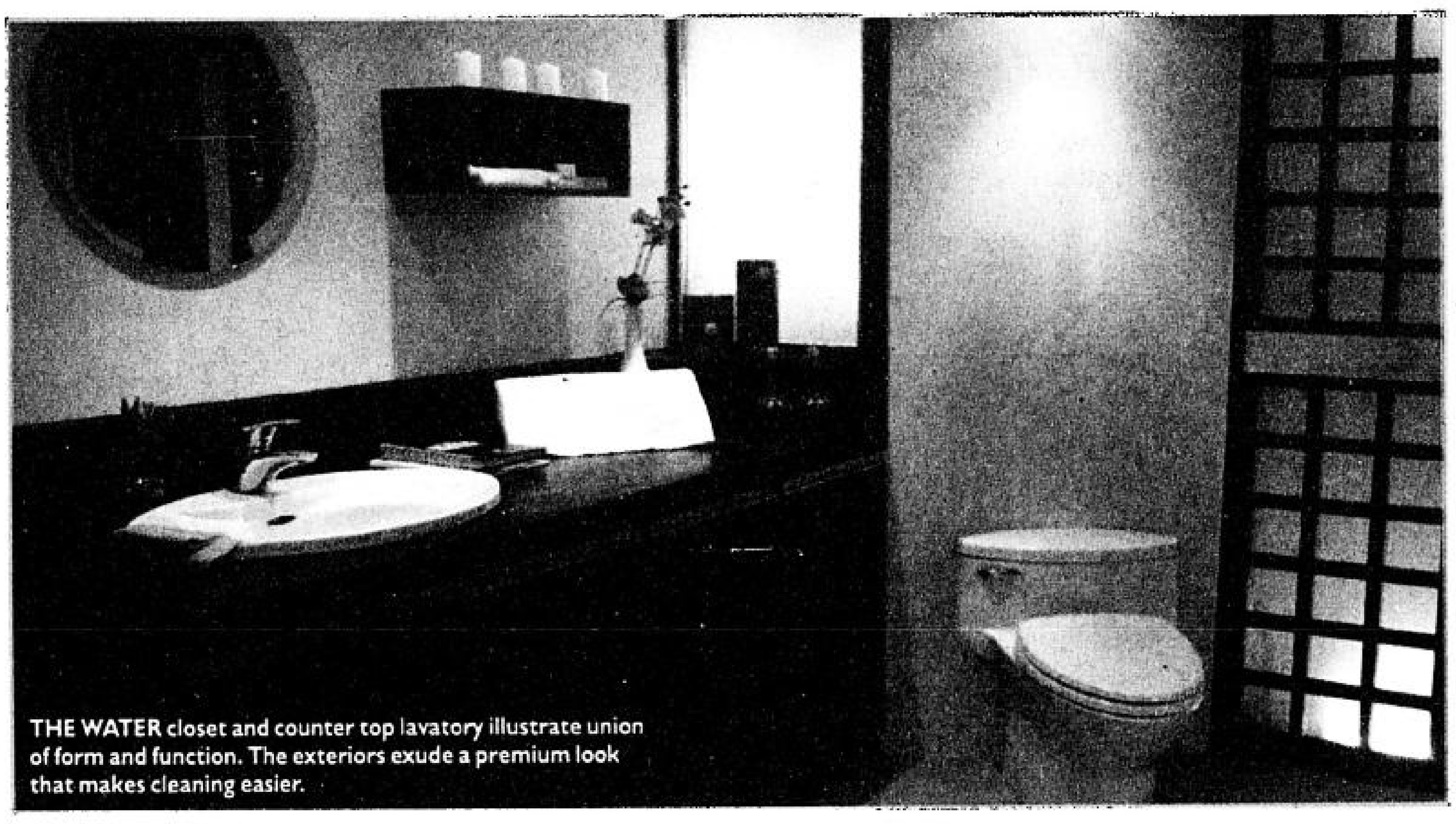
Toto's local operations started as a 35-35-30 percent joint venture with Thailand's Siam Cement and the Philippines' Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc. Its P1.8-billion plant was set up in 1997, right at the time of the Asian currency meltdown. Nonetheless, the JV company rode out the crisis years by exporting to the United States. And in 2000, Toto Japan renewed its commitment to the Philippines by raising its stake to over 73 percent of the JV.

"Year 2000 was the turning point, not just for Toto, but for the entire construction industry," Saito says. "Since then, housing starts have been rising at about five percent, pacing GDP growth." As the company approaches its 10th year of Philippine operations in 2005, the market can only expect more from this maker of the king of thrones.

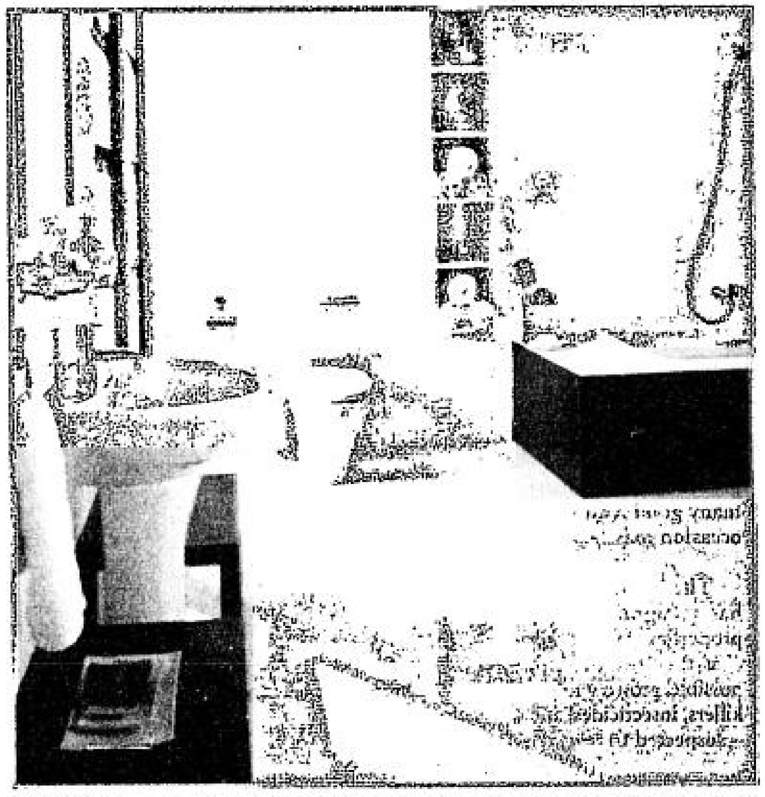
For inquiries, call 7518686



THE FUTURE of bathroom technology. Neorest model is equipped with Tornado Flushing which washes the entire bowl surface with each flush. The cover opens as you approach. When you leave, the sensor activates the cleaning function and closes the cover.



THE WATER closet and counter top lavatory illustrate union of form and function. The exteriors exude a premium look that makes cleaning easier.



LE BLANC model features an elongated bowl that follows contours of the body. The Duroplast lid and seat are durable and stable.

Doing the time warp, blissfully

A visit to Sanctuario in Malate is a journey back to another time, when leisure meant healing, too

By Ana A.S. Bitong
Contributor

OF LATE, I have immersed myself in the novels of Philippa Gregory, who spins intricate webs of stories set in old England, in which fact and fiction become one. So it came as no surprise that I dreamt of life as a lady in the early centuries—milk baths in wooden tubs, a flurry of handmaidens at my beck and call—a time when leisure had a whole different meaning.

Believe it or not, I actually lived this fantasy, although instead of old England I found myself in old Manila.

In this piece of heaven in Malate, time stands still and faint memories of my *lola*'s reminiscences become reality. The Sanctuario is a spa housed in an ancestral mansion built in 1946 on Jorse Bocobo St. Jomar Fleras, the man behind the venture, worked painstakingly to keep the original structure even as he added a new wing.

Simple pleasures

Right upon entering, I was greeted by a staff whose courtesy reminded me of my faithful and trusted *yaya*. The sound of running water filled the foyer, and the setting of antique wood and lush indoor garden sealed the secret: I was no longer in the realm of stress.

I decided to try the *barako* coffee scrub. The procedure would use finely pounded coffee beans from Batangas to remove dead layers of the skin. This is done in a corner room equipped with an old-style bath and bed and a picture window. The smell of the *barako* is intoxicating; its effect is an awakening.

I also had the Tsokolate treatment, with native dark chocolate rich in flavonoids, a natural antioxidant. The cacao is also rich in vitamin E, which softens the skin. It was pure delight. Slathered in chocolate, I could not remember being happier at any other time. Studies have shown that chocolates release the "happy chemical" seratonin in the brain—ostensibly an aphrodisiac. Indeed, I smelled and felt like the sweetest thing on earth, skin tingling with delight and anticipation. This treatment is definitely a must for brides-to-be, or anyone preparing for a romantic evening.

After the scrub, I was bathed lying down. 'Twas a simple but indulgent pleasure, the height of pampering. Then I was brought to a room filled with antique armoires and capiz shutters, where my visit concluded with a massage on a simple wooden bed, while the scents of healing essential oils wafted in the air.

Purely Pinoy

Sanctuario has other purely Pinoy body scrubs on its service menu.

Pulot Gata is delicious blend of *galapong*, coconut milk and shredded coconut meat. Prime grade Palawan honey is also applied to the skin as antibacterial. This is great for cleansing and moisturizing dry skin.

Ulog is a treatment inspired by the northern mountain tribes. A nourishing blend of Ifugao mountain rice and honey scrub is used. This is said to moisturize skin, improve its texture, and restore its elasticity.

There is also a pampering package called Banahaw Mystique, which consists of *ylang-ylang* floral teakwood bath, deep tissue virgin coconut oil massage, *gugo* shampoo, and avocado moisturizing mask.

Also an alternative healing treatment called Hilot Remedial therapy: a deep-tissue Filipino therapy performed by a traditional medicine man.

All in all, Sanctuario has about 50 kinds of services for men, women and couples. A visit doesn't have to end with the treatment; one can linger at the spa's organic café and try mouth-watering health food and beverages.

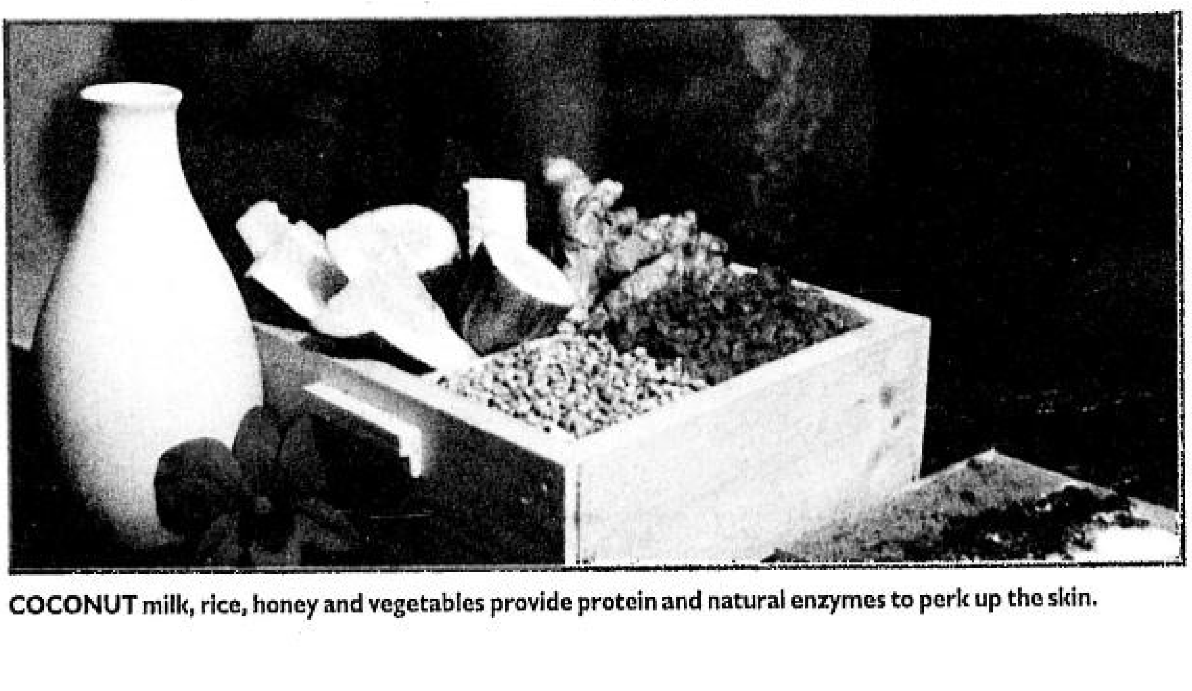
I was treated to grilled beef on poppy seed bagel (the meat so juicy, yet lean and light) and fresh mango and guava shake by the man of the house. Fleras is always around to offer guests tea and company.

As I sat back with a cup of simply divine lemon grass tea, I could do nothing else but marvel at this quaint nirvana.

These all-natural scrubs are offered at the spa. Call 450-1127 or 0917-8338499. Located at 1929 J. Bocobo, Malate, Manila

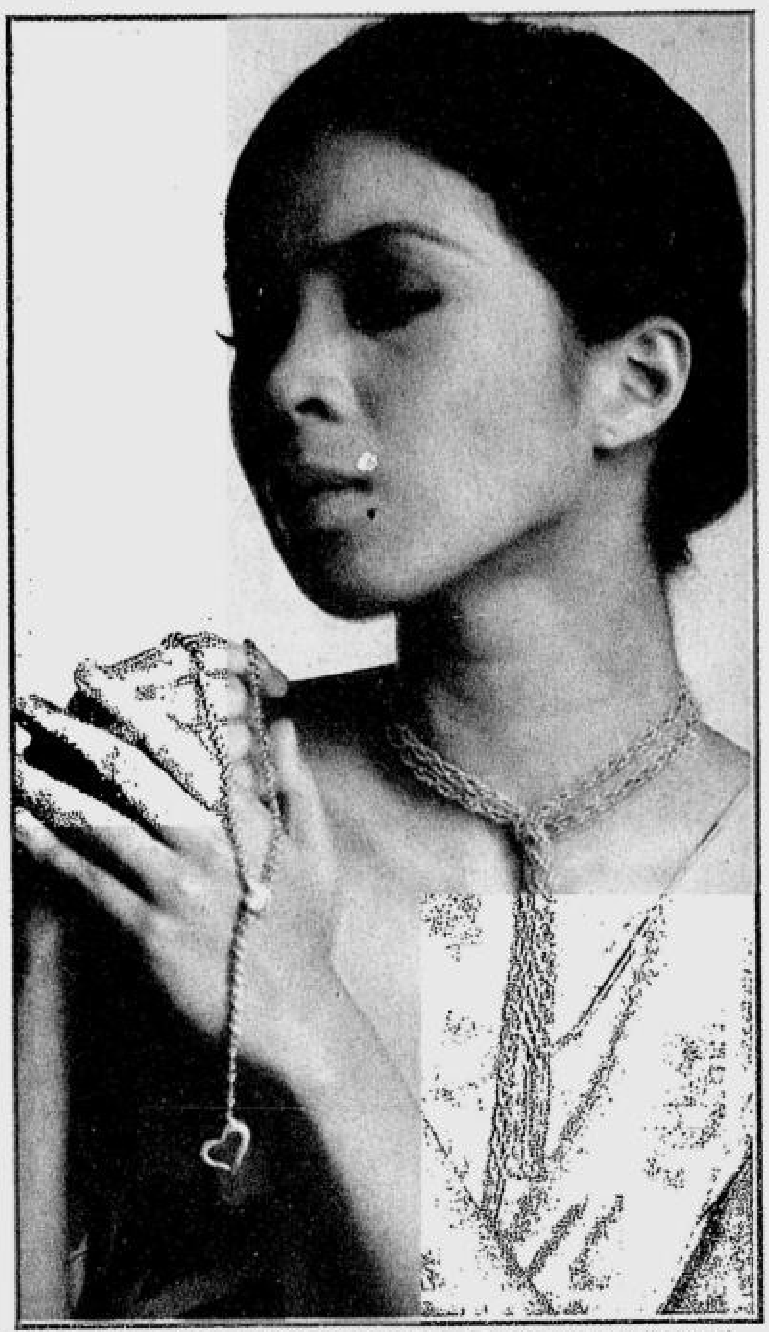
BODY scrub from local coffee beans cleanses away toxins.

CHOCOLATE scrub from pure cacao lifts one's mood.



COCONUT milk, rice, honey and vegetables provide protein and natural enzymes to perk up the skin.

Filipino jewelry goes Italian



ON Faye Abigail Tan: White gold lariat with diamonds and diamond necklace with heart pendant

THE GLEAM of gold is set to make a comeback.

However, white gold, silver and diamonds will still dominate the scene.

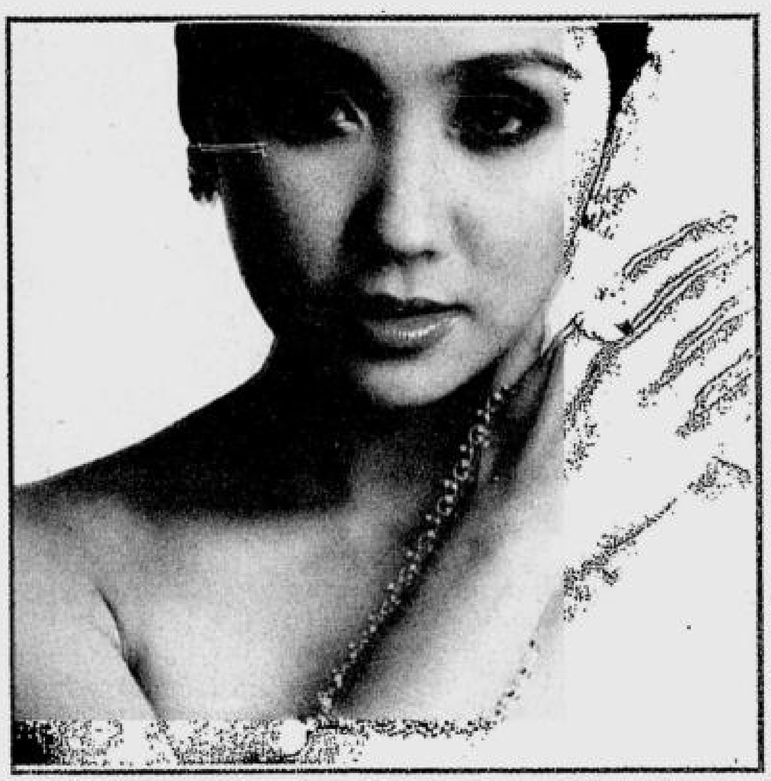
Taking a cue from runway fashions, jewelry is going romantic as an escape from the harsh realities of life. "Romantic" entails attention to tiny details and nature motifs.

In keeping with the trends, Vanafi at the Peninsula Manila, Glorietta 1 and Ninoy Aquino International Airport presents a high-end collection made in Italy. Owner Vanessa Figueroa says this is a response to the demands of a discriminating clientele.

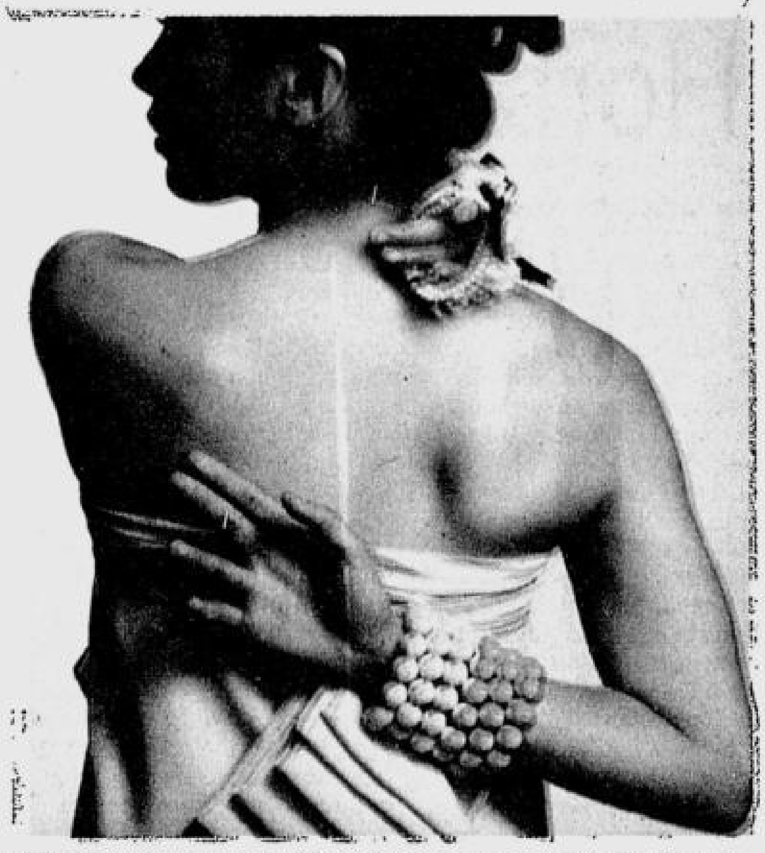
Asked why some pieces had to be subcontracted in Italy, she replies, "Design and manufacturing are in their blood. They revere design and are uncompromising in their standard of perfection."

Aside from the Vanafi house brands, the boutique will introduce other Italian brands, such as Damiani, Staurino Fratelli, Marco Bicego and Pascuale Bruni.

Photos: Patrick Uy
Hair and makeup: Liza Baltazar
Assistant: Connie Buenafe for Essensuals Toni & Guy
Clothes: James Reyes



ON Mica Bernas: Mother-of-pearl floral earrings and ring and platinum necklace with pearl pendant



CHALK bead and faux pearl bracelets are given a twist with ribbons.

Tie a ribbon, any ribbon

ACCESSORIES are making themselves more and more visible as the holidays approach. In stores and other outlets, you find these jeweled pieces in their simplest and most popular form: pearls and beads. Now they've got company: ribbons and beads.

Ribbons, a feminine touch to anything ordinary, can dress up even the simplest pieces. Take a basic pearl bracelet and put it on your wrist. It's bound to be little more than bland. But with a ribbon accent, you can dress it up and thus express a whole lot about your sense of style.

Triple-stranded pearls with a black ribbon accent is so... Chanel. Wearing three separate bracelets at a time could spell understated elegance. For instance: a pink-and-blue combination is playful, while three bright green triple strands have a chunky effect. The possibilities are endless.

What you choose to wear on your wrist does not need to match your earrings or necklace. There is no need to have a "set" all the time. Let ribbons do the talking for a change.

For inquiries on these products, call Camille at (0917) 531-1264, or e-mail unit36d@vasia.com

Celebrate with

Organic Wine

Doesn't it seem that the things you most love to eat or drink during celebrations turn out to be bad for you? Organic wine is an exception. It promises to be a delightful drink that gives you many good reasons to celebrate – whatever the occasion may be.

The medical profession for thousands of years has recognized the healthful and nutritive properties of wine. Organic wines are even better – as they use the strongest and richest grapes possible, grown without chemical fertilizers, weed killers, insecticides, and other synthetic chemicals – suspected to be carcinogens.

Independent studies conducted around the world show that consuming moderate amounts of wine (1-3 glasses per day) has been found to be beneficial to one's health. Here are some healthful reasons to drink organic wine:

Prevents arterial clotting.
Wine, especially red wine, contains phenolics (found in tannin, in the pigment of dark-skinned grapes, and in certain flavor compounds called flavanoids), which has been found to possess anti-oxidant properties that may help prevent clotting of the arteries and other internal blood clots.

Lowers risk of cancer.
Phenolics block free-radicals, which are highly reactive forms of molecules that can weaken the cell walls, thus allowing those cells to oxidize. When cells are oxidized, they die or are subject to mutation, which can mean cancer.

Improves cholesterol levels.
Fatty food is the main culprit of heart disease. Drinking wine with your meal can counter the adverse effects of fat in your bloodstream by positively affecting your cholesterol levels.

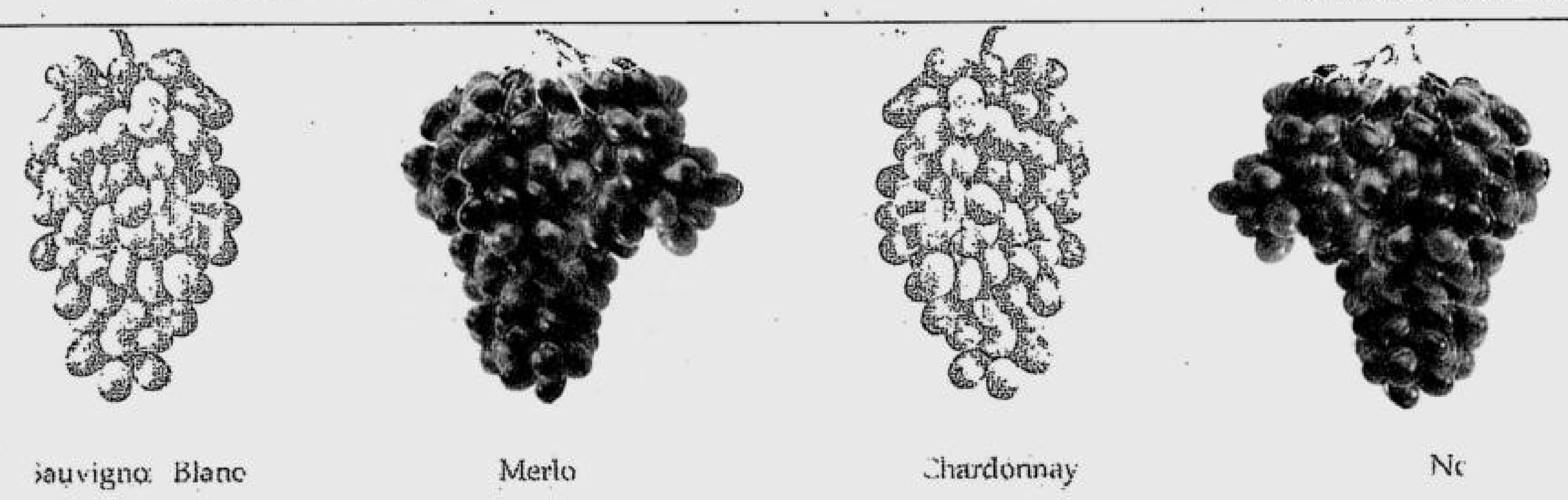
Lowers blood pressure and reduces the risk of stroke.
A recent Harvard study claims that the lowest blood pressure levels were found in those that consumed 1-3 glasses of wine per day even factoring in such things as smoking, a family history of hypertension, adjustments for pulse rate, medication use, etc. But if you need more reasons to drink organic wine, how about:

Social.
As with all beverages that contain ethanol, wine is a psychotropic drug. The effects or response vary by individual metabolism and quantity consumed, but begins with relaxation and stimulation. This can be positive for the individual and also promote social interaction.

Sensual.
Wine is a pleasant stimulant to four of our five basic senses, as well as to the human spirit.

Intellectual.
Wine is also stimulating to the intellect, since a true understanding of wine and its various aspects involves many areas for study.

Wine and food.
The chemical composition of wine makes it a natural accompaniment to many foods, since the mild acidity of wine contrasts with the oily or fatty content of some foods. Wine and food may each taste good alone, but the end result of this contrasting and complementing is that most wines and foods taste especially good together.



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Horse heaven in Cavite

By Teddy Montelibano
Contributor

COFFEE Creek Farm, a few minutes drive from the ridge in Tagaytay City, is a virtual horse heaven. Anyone who loves horses should come and visit this breeding farm amid an eight-hectare coffee plantation and see the likes of Sandrina, Metuchen, Big Honey, Miss Bertha, and about 15 other beauties as they roam and graze in an enclosed pasture, attended to by a bevy of grooms under the attentive eye of the owner, Nicholas A. Matti.

Matti, a Negrense in his 40s, started breeding horses in the late 1980s and bought this piece of land in Barrio Lalaan Uno off the highway in Silang, Cavite, several years later. He had grown up in Negros Occidental, local Sugarland itself, although he himself was partial to pursuits other than sugar production.

Fresh out of college, he joined businessman Ernest Esçaler's coffee trading operations and soon moved on with a partner to represent a major world firm, trading coffee in the region, an activity he continues to do today.

In the late 1980s, he was cattle ranching in his home province of Negros Occidental when he thought of cross breeding local riding and cow ponies with imported thoroughbreds.

"Actually," explains Matti, "many of the horses in the country which we call ponies are a mixture of Asiatic ponies—the Southeast Asian breed, Mongol or Indonesian types bred with Western or Spanish horses brought here by the Spaniards and Americans. Thus, many of our ponies aren't really ponies in the real sense; they're degenerated horses. Meaning, they were of good lineage originally, but because of poor breeding, poor maintenance, poor feeding, they've become smaller. Yet, genetically, there's still good blood in them."

Being a horse lover since his teens, Matti has always wanted to upgrade the quality of such native ponies.

Coffee Creek Farm is setting up a riding school, but only for the truly interested

Good stock

He started a breeding program after he bought a light quarter horse from the Yulos of Canlubang, Laguna. At that time, such a horse cost him less than P5,000. A brother-in-law of his who now ranches cattle in Isabela also bought three of the same kind. They began breeding these four horses with thoroughbreds.

They scoured Batangas and Quezon province to find mixed-blood horses that were offshoots of thoroughbreds crossed with native horses. They bought only those with heights of 56 to 60 inches (or, in horseman's language, 14–15 hands) from the ground to the withers, or where the neck of the horse starts.

In 1992, he added to his stables an Anglo-Arab (cross between an Arab and a thoroughbred) stallion, bought again from the Yulos, and used this as a stud to mate with stock in his in-laws' Bulacan farm. At about the same time, he sent some mares to his Negros farm, which he crossed with an Australian quarter horse. All these produced offspring and today, half of Matti's total stock are thoroughbreds and half are mixed stock.

"Over the years," he relates, "we managed to produce quite good stock. Some died, some we sold, and some that we were able to race at the tracks turned out to be winners in their class.

He's quite pleased with his current grade (not thoroughbred) stock. "They're very good saddle horses or, as we call them, cow ponies. They're versatile, and we use them for ranch work, for either trail or pleasure riding. We even sold some to (members of Manila) Polo Club which are now being trained for the sport. I hope they prove to have the right temperament." So far, the word from one of the buyers is the purchase "isn't bad at all!"

Matti loves to ride around in the Cavite area. He is partial to quarter horses, which are excellent for trail riding. "They're wide-bodied, with good chests and heights of five feet on average, so they're not too tall. But they're fast and sure-footed animals," he explains.

He belongs to a group that rides weekly in Tagaytay Highlands and on other trails that his horse trainers have discovered beyond Coffee Creek. One trail starts at the creek in the back of his property—thus it was called Matti's horse farm—and goes up to fields leading to Amadeo town, an hour and a half away, where Matti's coffee mill, Beneficio Amadeo, is located.

Two-tiered market

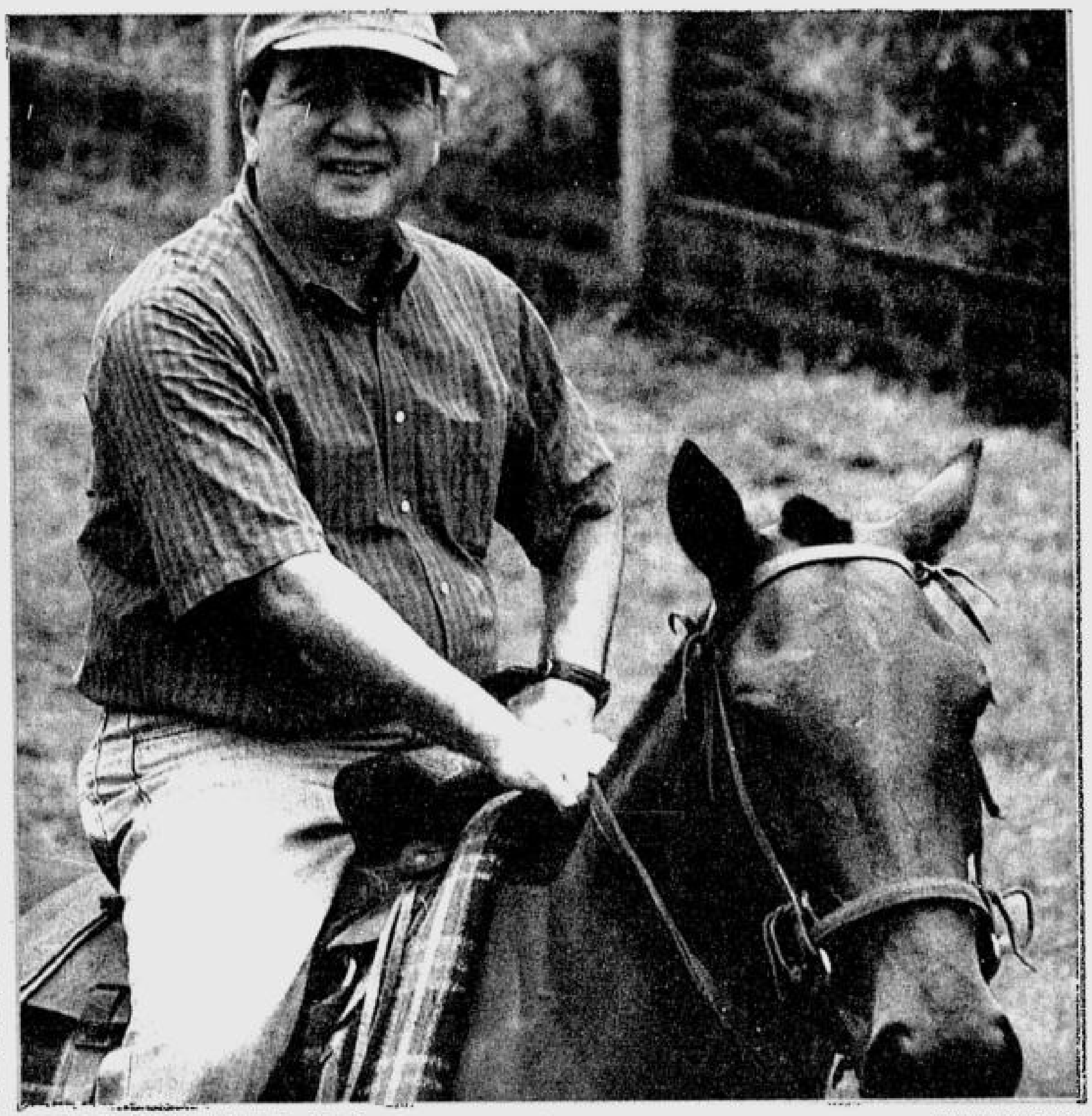
One rides through some 6 km of scenic rolling landscape, grass fields, coffee plantations, fruit farms, lush paths, wide-open fields and a breathtakingly beautiful but challenging deep canyon river trail which his chief cowboy, Jimmy Villan, has dubbed "Mystical Trail."

The deep canyon is the natural divide between Silang and Amadeo. In days of yore, produce was hauled on sacks slung on the backs of *burricos* or small pack horses led by tradesmen along wild paths to either town. "We found one such ancient path," says Matti, relating that after he bought his Coffee Creek property, he asked farmers in the area where a short cut might be found between Silang and Amadeo. "They told me to look for a pass called Matarik or something like that; and Jimmy (Villan) and the rest of the crew found it and it was exactly that—narrow and *matarik* (steep)—and you reach it after you cross this canyon that a stream, bounded by rock walls and thick vegetation on either side, runs through."

Matti hopes to incorporate that trail and a few others into the activities he is set to organize soon, when he formally opens his school of horsemanship in Coffee Creek. He'd like to impart his passion for horses, riding, and generally, for the wild outdoors, to as many people as possible through this school.

He's not averse to selling his horses to other enthusiasts. But before he can do that, of course, he should get people interested. He knows the market is limited, and that those with substantial disposable income could very well buy a thoroughbred or a warmblood from the United States or Europe instead.

"It's a two-tiered market," observes Matti. One, he says, is comprised of a few who understand horse ownership and have the resources to import say, a forbiddingly expensive thoroughbred. Alongside that is a developing market of people wanting to ride but aren't exactly keen on hocking the family jewels to purchase horses—or they don't have the proper facilities. "Obviously, the first thing we've got to do is teach people in this market to ride a horse," Matti notes. "What we want to open here in Coffee Creek is a school where we will teach people not only how to ride, but [all-around] horsemanship."



HORSE whisperer. Nicholas Matti

PHOTO: BOBOT MERU

Anyone can visit the property and ask for an introductory ride. The fees aren't fixed yet, but Matti is thinking of charging P350 an hour in the arena, and P400 an hour going around the bridle path. "But," he points out, "we will reserve the right to disallow people from riding if we see or feel that they don't really know how. And then maybe we will encourage them to take lessons."

Horsemanship curriculum

Matti says the curriculum being planned will include "familiarity and communicating with your horse—horse language, if you will; proper grooming and so on." The stress is on no-frills riding, he says. "After that, [the student] can ride trail with cowboys in Masbate, Bukidnon, Leyte or in any hacienda."

Being mulled is an introductory P4,000 package per student, which will include 10 lessons. There will be strict rules on punctuality and safety measures. Proper attire will be de riguer—denims or any other riding pants, boots, and headgear, whether hat, cap or a helmet.

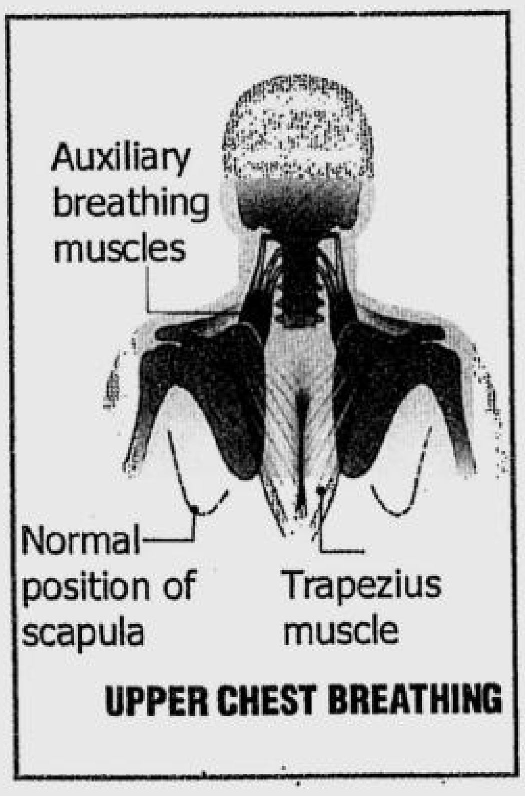
There will be lectures on basic horsemanship and thorough familiarity with horses and horsemen's language. There will be a total of 10 riding hours. The first three or four rides will be limited inside the arena. The rest will be around the 1.5-kilometer bridle path within the farm.

Students deemed ready to go out and ride the trail will be allowed to do so with their trainers. It has yet to be finalized but most likely, for the lessons to be fully effective, only four students at a time will be allowed for each 10-session course. "It would be nice to bring in a lot of people right away and charge them, but we're very conscious of safety," explains Matti. "And it's difficult to impart knowledge if there are a lot of people. We've had some trial runs with kids who, we could tell from the start, were not all that interested. I had to tell their folks to just keep their money."

The course fee will include use of all basic equipment, including the saddle. Matti keeps about a dozen—seven Western, and five English.

"It doesn't matter, though, whether you ride English or Western," he emphasizes. "Once we're done with [a student, he] can mount any horse and ride with confidence."

Coffee Creek Farm is located in Barrio Lalaan Uno, Silang town, Cavite province. Call 0917-5231820 for details.



Healthy breathing

By Dr. Martin Camara
Contributor

"You can live two months without food and two weeks without water, but you can live only a few minutes without air." –Hung Yi-Hsiang

THIS statement of a Taoist adept in the early 13th century captures the importance of breathing. It means nutrition provided by breathing is more vital to health and longevity than that provided by food and water through digestion. Breathing influences the body's bio-electric balance, just as diet influences its biochemical balance. In fact, *Chee-gung* (or *qi gong*), which means both "breathing exercise" and "energy control," has been a formal branch of Chinese medicine for over 2000 years. In the same way an acupuncturist manipulates acupuncture points with a needle to influence *chi* or energy in one's body, a Taoist controls the flow of energy by exercising proper breathing for both cleansing and energizing.

In India, the practice is called "pranayama," a form of breath regulation to influence one's health and mental state. Alternate nostril breathing has long been regarded as a way to deeper levels of contemplation and clarity.

Here in the Philippines, a group called "azen" uses breath awareness and breath count as an introduction to meditation and Zen. They are also considered useful tools in deepening one's spiritual state and health in general.

In Russia, a physiologist named Dr. Konstantin Pavlovich Buteyko developed an alternative approach to breathing called the Buteyko method, which claims to help thousands of people reverse health problems such as asthma, allergies and even diabetes, using controlled and frequent shallow nose breathing.

This body function, often taken for granted, affects our physical well-being and state of mind

What happens, exactly?

All over the world, different cultures and traditions have realized the importance of proper breathing. This article aims to explore breath from a physical point of view—how our muscles, ribs and spine control it.

What exactly happens when I take a deep breath?

The first thing is that the diaphragm, a large muscle that runs horizontally under the lungs, moves down. Almost simultaneously, the ribs move up and out, increasing lung capacity or internal space. When necessary, accessory muscles for respiration—which run from the neck to the first rib and clavicle—help pull the shoulders up. The corresponding change in pressure created by this combined and finely orchestrated movement is what drives air into the lungs. An exhalation is simply the reverse process.

This established normal breathing pattern is most effective when the body is well balanced and maintained at its full height with minimum effort. That is, when we are standing long and tall without significant muscular contraction. Thus, proper posture is crucial to a proper breath.

The connection between anxiety, postural change, and altered breathing patterns may be an underlying factor in breathing problems in a condition such as asthma. Under stress, the body shortens and the respiratory and metabolic rates increase. Muscles tighten in preparation for the classic fight or flight response. Postural changes limit the size of internal space, which restricts the action of the diaphragm, which is responsible for 60 to 80 percent of our breathing. This also significantly reduces the pressure change that serves as the primary driver for air to come into the lungs.

Helpful practices

Muscular tightness or over-contraction likewise creates in our bodies a resistance to the movement of the ribcage, making it impossible for the diaphragm to perform its function. As a result, the muscles of the neck are called into play to lift the shoulders and help the external muscles of the chest work to draw air in. This—raised upper chest—is frequently seen in people with asthma, hypertension and coronary problems. The harder you work to breathe in, the less likely you are to want to breathe out.

The first step towards correction of this pattern is to establish an awareness of the factors that are working together to create the tensions that result in restricted breathing. Managing one's stress levels through meditation, breath control, exercise, acupuncture or counseling sessions will help reduce the effects of muscular over-contraction. Massage, physical therapy, and chiropractic adjustments will help correct restrictions in the ribs and middle back, which will also help increase the depth of the internal space.

Yoga and Pilates practice help strengthen and stretch the muscles that hold us in place and reinforce proper abdominal or "diaphragmic" breathing patterns. Lastly, lessons with an Alexander teacher will correct our posture while making us aware of excessive muscular tension in different parts of the body.

For any questions please e-mail the author at drmartin@intercare-centers.com

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Lavender and rose, purely for pleasure

DAILY home rituals are made pleasurable by scents, such as lavender and rose.

Crabtree & Evelyn's New Lavender Collection is made to de-stress you. A few drops of Lavender Environmental Oil from its ceramic diffuser will fill the air with a healing scent. Sprinkle Carpet Refresher on the rugs and carpets and vacuum. It feels as if you are walking on petals. Save on dry cleaning with Fine Linen Wash, which gently and safely cleanses fine washables, leaving them softly scented.

For a meditative atmosphere, Poured Candle adds glow and warmth to any room. Votive Candles impart the aroma of English lavender, too. Line drawers and armoires with Drawing Lining Paper, again featuring sprigs of lavender, and hang your clothes on Padded Hangers that leave slinky shirts and strappy camisoles lightly scented.

Travel Soap leaves are an alternative to soap. Rub gently under water in the palm of your hands. Slather with Hand Therapy, which has essential oil and shea butter.

The delicate Rosewater Collection is made from distilled water and attar, essential oils of rose, enhanced by a soft green top note. The Home Line offers Rosewater Fine Linen Wash, Carpet Refresher and various scent forms.

The toiletries are mildly antiseptic, good for flushed or inflamed skin. The Rosewater Milled soap with cold cream is great for dry skin. The Rosewater Bath & Shower Gel produces mounds of rose-scented bubbles that condition the skin. Pamper your hands with Rosewater Hand Therapy with glycerine.

Crabtree & Evelyn employs also Swiss technology, known worldwide to promote rejuvenation.

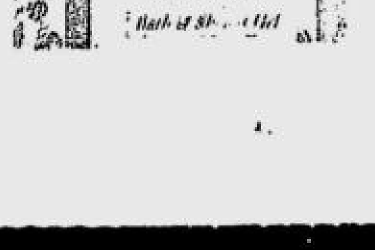
Its Swiss Skin Care line uses floral, plant and soothing chamomile extracts that protect the skin against environmental aggressors.

The water-soluble Cleansing Milk removes dirt and makeup without upsetting moisture balance. The Cleansing Bar with shea butter removes excess oil without causing dryness. It works best with a lather. The Herbal Tonifier refreshes the skin. It contains witch hazel to stimulate the skin, sage extracts to tighten pores, and thyme as mild antiseptic.

To soften skin, the 24-Hour Emulsion moisturizes the skin without clogging the pores, and nourishes the skin with Vitamin A and apricot oil.

The moisturizing Day Cream protects the skin against the outside environment and keeps the skin supple. The Enriched Night Cream contains Vitamins D and E, avocado and wheat germ oils, also for softening. It contains allantoin to soothe the skin, and collagen for cold weather. The Body Care and Bath Fragrance lines guarantee the same beneficial effects as the facial line. For delicate skin, the antiperspirant is water-based and mild.

The specialty store is located at Greenbelt, Ayala Center; SM Megamall A, and Robinsons Place, Padre Faura Wing.



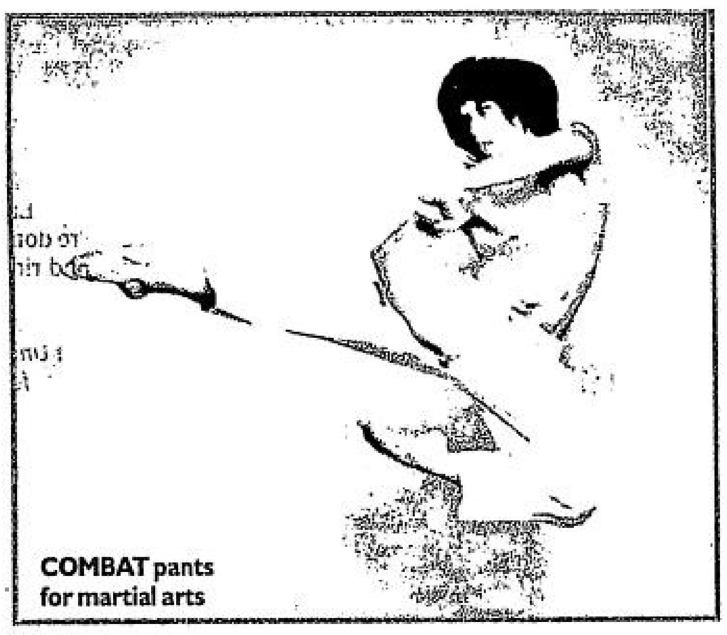
Chillin' and chic

Photos by Patrick Uy

WHETHER you are embarking on a stricter fitness regimen or simply starting a new program, you should put together your workout wear with enthusiasm. Resolve to be cool and comfortable. Workout wear focuses on this need. The fabrics facilitate ease of movement, let the skin breathe, and keep the moisture away. Loosen up and "chill" in some fab clothes. Few things feel better than looking good in dress-down gear.

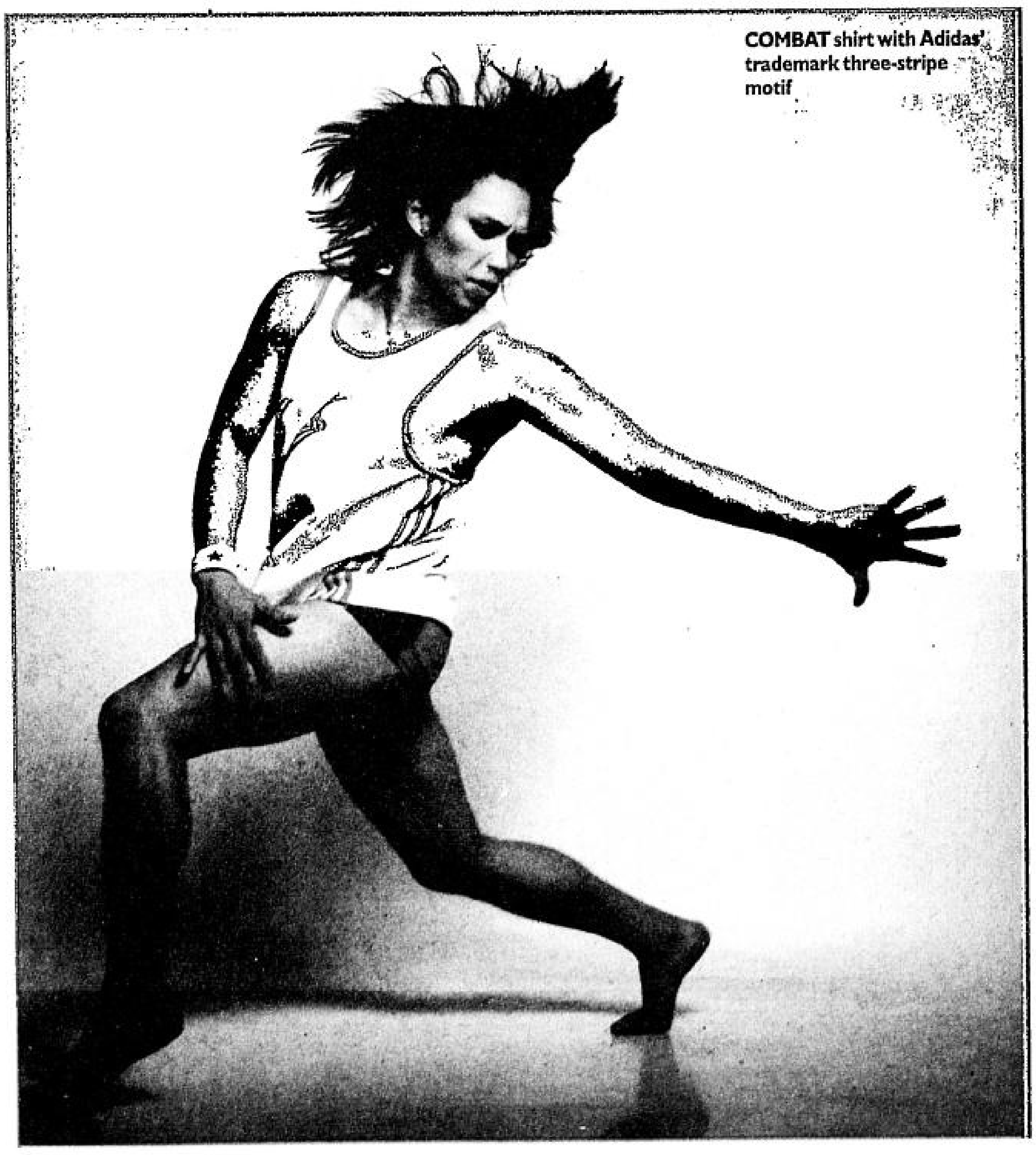
Clothes: Adidas
Grooming, hair and makeup: Liza Baltazar
Assistant: Connie Buenafe for Essensuals Toni & Guy
Models: Ernest Mandap, Mica Bernas

ADIDAS Climacool top and pants for yoga, Pilates or just having fun.

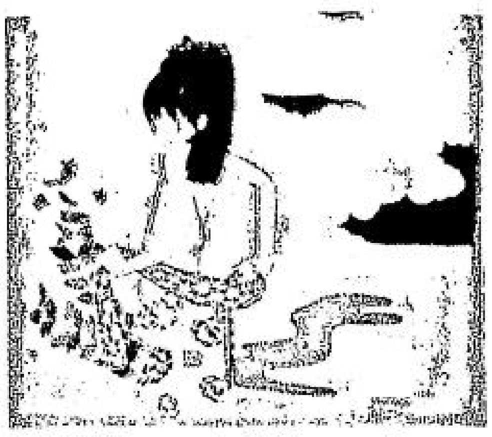


COMBAT pants for martial arts

FLYIN' high now. Hooded jacket, inspired by Rocky fashion, for gym or gimmick wear.



COMBAT shirt with Adidas' trademark three-stripe motif



ORIGINAL artwork of Ai Yamaguchi combines aesthetics of classical Edo period with pop-culture sensibilities of Japanese animation.

Face value

Shu Uemura is called 'Father of Cleansing Oil' for a very clear reason

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

high performance balancing cleansing oil enriched
SHU UEMURA SKIN PURIF
art work by ai yamaguchi

LIMITED edition artwork on the bottle of the brand's most emblematic star product, the Cleansing Oil.

IF YOU have started to read this article, there is a fine chance you are part of Shu Uemura's cult following, which is reportedly "the size of a small nation."

Uemura wears the title "Father of Cleansing Oil" well, and not without reason. Facing stiff resistance in the 1960s, he devoted himself to promoting the merits of oil cleansing. He kept reminding women: "Think first about what you can remove from your skin, rather than what you can apply to it."

For Uemura, oil cleansing is "catharsis" to the skin. It does not only purify the skin, he says, but also renews its beauty. On top of this, he adds, the process liberates one's spirit.

It didn't take long before many women from all walks and of all ages embraced his philosophy of putting value on the face.

The idea for his star product—cleansing oil—is said to have come to Uemura during his stint as a Hollywood makeup artist in the '50s. There, he noticed actresses constantly applying makeup under harsh lights in sweltering studio sets. Despite these unfavorable conditions, their skin remained flawless. He soon discovered the secret—a cleansing oil called "Unmask."

One cannot help musing on the significance of that name. Oftentimes, an (over) made-up woman strikes others as wearing a mask. It is as if by putting on mascara, she dons a mask. Is it possible that Uemura has come upon an insight that parallels the French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas' philosophy of the Face?

Unmasking

Levinas, who deals lengthily on the Face in his magnum opus, "Totality and Infinity," talks about the skin of the face being "most naked." Of course, he quickly adds, this nakedness constitutes "decent nudity." For him, there is "an essential poverty" in the Face (capitalized as a reminder that Levinas is evoking the non-objectified face). A proof of this is that "one tries to mask this poverty by putting on poses, by taking on a countenance."

One can deduce that, by "poverty," Levinas means honesty or simplicity. It would seem that Uemura's approach to makeup is to downplay it. His goal is to take off the "mask" that a person unthinkingly puts on when she wears makeup. The ideal would be to look "natural"—to be made-up in such a way that one doesn't look made-up.

The English word "cosmetics" can be traced to the Greek word "cosmos," which means a harmonious, well-ordered and decent arrangement. Uemura wants to lead us back to a world that is harmonious, well-ordered and decent, a "cosmos" that is the opposite of "chaos." It is not surprising, then, that he has joined hands with a young talented artist named Ai Yamaguchi who produced the limited edition artwork on the bottles of Uemura's cleansing oil.

'Nouveau Japonisme'

Yamaguchi, born in 1977 in Tokyo, began her career as a protégé of Takashi Murakami, "Japan's hottest contemporary artist." Murakami's hyper-cute style should be familiar to fans of animé and manga. The same cuteness pervades Yamaguchi's works that are now displayed in prestigious galleries in Tokyo, New York and Los Angeles. Classified as "Nouveau Japonisme," Yamaguchi's style deftly combines the refined aesthetics of traditional Japanese culture from the Edo period with the pop culture sensibilities of Japanese animation.

In the four artworks on the bottles of the cleansing oils recently introduced at the new Ayala Museum, we observed young, partially naked girls. Their adolescent bodies display Levinas' "decent nudity." They have long black hair and large dark eyes. They stare, expressionless, into the distance. They pose against an ornamental background of cherry blossoms, maple leaves, clouds, butterflies, even a turtle and a snail. Taken together, they project a world of natural beauty, youth, freshness, innocence and purity. In buying and using Uemura's skin purifier with an artwork by Yamaguchi on its bottle, isn't one somehow hoping to experience a catharsis, a purification—to be reborn to beauty, youth, freshness, innocence and purity?

E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu

Sex knocks out Harry Potter

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

100 Strokes of the Brush before Bed
By: Melissa P.
Translated from Italian by Lawrence Venuti
167 pages

... in Italy, at least, where this prodigious and mesmerizing piece of erotic literature took a bow.

EROTIC literature, once considered either high brow (i.e., the works of Anais Nin, Georges Bataille), or pornographic rubbish (by too many marginal wannabes), seems to be going mainstream. Riding the crest of this new wave is 19-year-old Melissa Panarello, or simply Melissa P.

REVIEW

The fictionalized memoir, "One Hundred Strokes of the Brush before Bed" knocked Harry Potter from No. 1 spot in the author's native Italy when it first came out in 2003. The novel, presented in diary form, follows the sexual awakening of a young girl from July 2000 (When the author/protagonist was just 14), to August 2002. It basically revolves around the intimate thoughts of a Sicilian teenager whose quest for love rapidly disintegrates into a shocking journey of sexual discovery. The writing is blunt and explicit, but the narrative flows in a comfortable vernacular that transcends age and gender.

It is difficult to imagine that someone so young (the author was 17 when she wrote the book) could write with such assured and confident prose, yet seethe with vulnerability.

The narrative is at once depressing and moving. One sees, reaching out from the pages, a confused and self-destructive girl who ironically wants everything but sex. She wants love and mutual affection; she searches for it but finds herself thrown into circumstances so dire, the novel is almost cautionary. After each temporarily empowering encounter, this would-be Lolita stumbles home to brush out her hair in 100 cleansing strokes, a simple physical gesture that serves as therapeutic anchor.

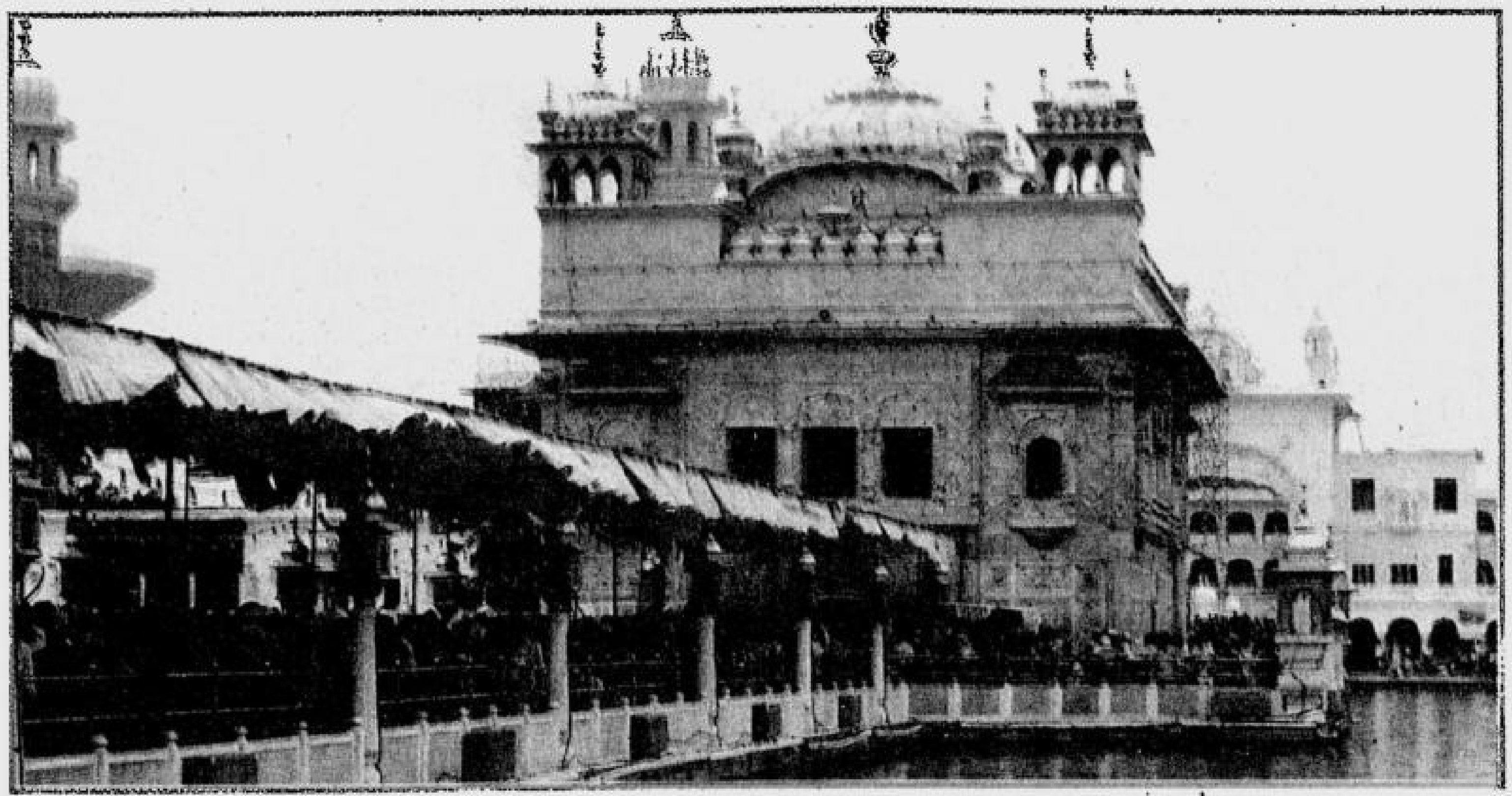
This instant bestseller caused a scandal when first published in Europe, not so much for its explicit content as for the subject matter at hand. The extreme youth of both the protagonist and author exacerbates the situation. Now an international literary phenomenon and translated all over the world, the book has brought to the fore what many refuse to talk about: the rampant decline of morals and values, a universal affliction.

The fact that Melissa P. is being celebrated for it is beside the point. It is sad that this dark piece of writing—the diary of a disappointed teenager, an innocent who tries to liberate herself with carnal encounters—is now a sort of unheard cry. It is amazing that the author manages to retain the core of her sensitivity in spite of her obvious teenage traits of reckless confidence, isolated angst and romanticized self.

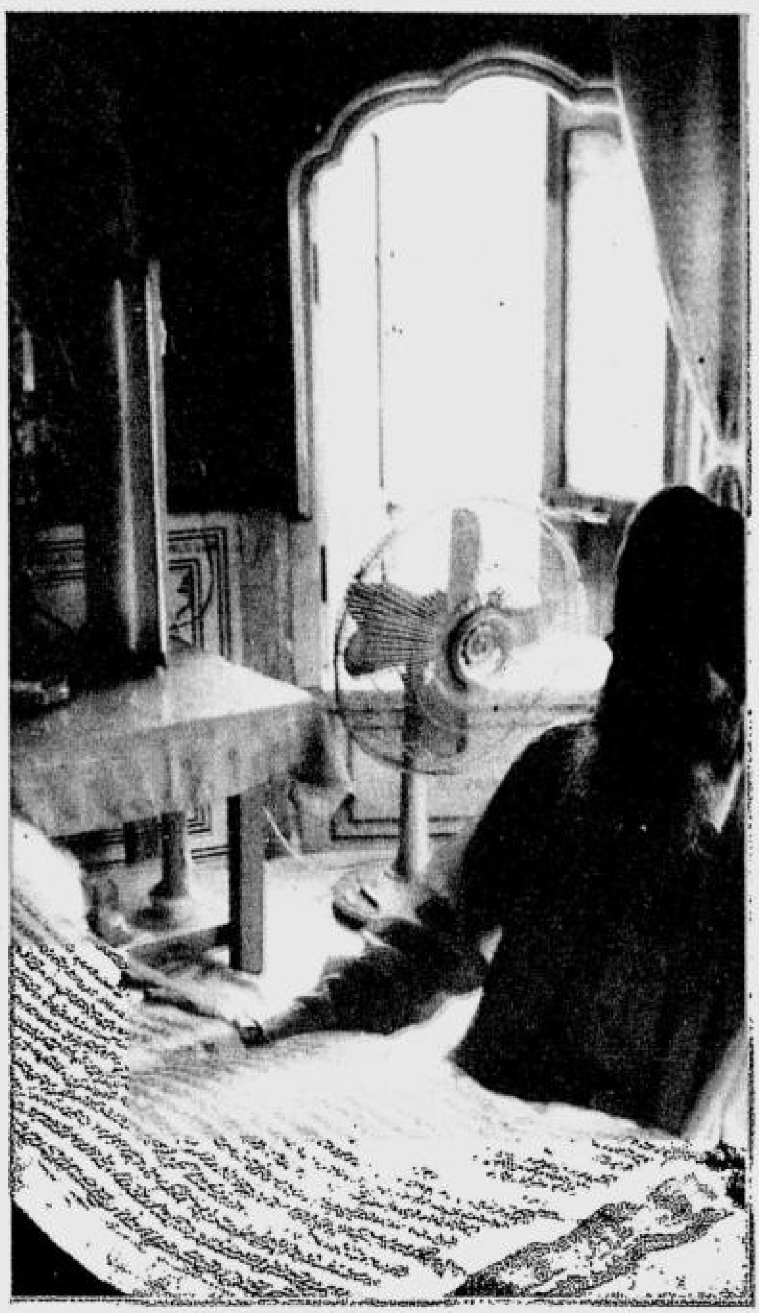
Melissa P. has been compared to French author Catherine Millet, but more than anything, this novel seems to be about self-discovery. Almost accidentally, it also becomes a social commentary. The author decries what she views as the Italians' innate hypocrisy in all things sexual, particularly their deceptive social façades in romantic relationships.

It is important to stress that, although this book is considered erotic fiction, it's hard to imagine that it could scandalize still, in view of today's explicit, even vulgar, language in music and media. In the end, Melissa's sad story ends on a promising note. She seemingly finds love, but because it comes of as contrived, the reader is unconvinced.

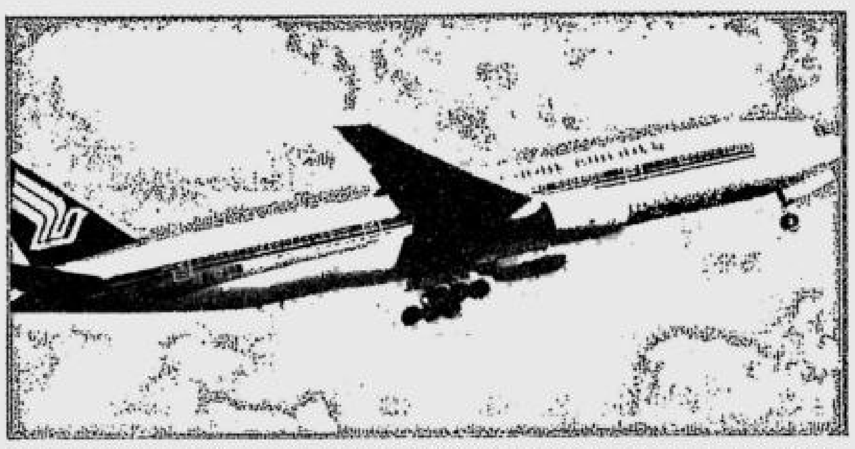
Critics argue that this "diary" is more fantasy than fact. Either way, the writing is prodigious and mesmerizing. Further, it has made the author famous, not to mention rich.



MORE than just a pilgrimage mecca for the Sikhs, the Golden Temple is Amritsar's major tourist attraction.



A GRANTHI reads the holy scriptures



SIA's direct flights. A boon for 6.5 million tourists who visit the Indian state of Punjab annually.

BHANGRA pop. A frisky Punjab dance makes waves in India.

Temple of Gold in the City of God

By Angela Blardony Ureta
Contributor

Oh thou, the land of Martyrs, the land of farmers
The land of valiant youth in armor
The land where Guru Gobind and Nanak lived
Thou—the pride of India—hath this honor.
Five rivers shed their nectar upon the land of my birth
And that is precisely why I call thee, my Punjab
Heaven on earth... *An Ode to Punjab*

A SHINING jewel in the coronet of cultural treasures that circle India, Punjab is known by two distinct appellations: "Land of Five Rivers" and "Home of the Great Gurus." And it is with the deepest reverence and affection that Punjabis refer to the district of Amritsar as a sacred city, where God continues to receive the prayers of the devout in that spectacular monument of faith that is the Swarna Mandir—The Golden Temple. Here God's name has been remembered and His praise sung every passing minute of every single day for the last 400 years.

Every Sikh dreams of visiting Amritsar and offering obeisance at the Golden Temple at least once in his lifetime. Originally constructed in 1601, it is the most sacrosanct place of worship among the Sikhs and is one of the most spectacular sights in all of India. Covered in gold plating and surrounded by lavish shrines, its four entrances (called *deoris*) facing all four directions, welcome everyone, regardless of race, gender or religion, to unite in peace, prayer and universal love.

It is almost impossible to gaze at the Golden Temple under the noonday sun -- easier to take in its warm glow through the reflection in the azure waters of the pool that surrounds it. Curiously, it is this lagoon that lent the whole district its name, for in the ancient tongue, Amritsar literally translated to "Pool of Nectar." Sikhs come from all over the world to worship at the temple and bathe in Amrit Saras Kund, or "Pool of Immortality," which promises spiritual purification.

Land of gurus

Legend has it that, long before the place came to be known as Amritsar, it was home to Lord Rama's twin sons, Luv and Kush, who were taught the Ramayana by the venerated sage, Valmiki. It was barely 500 years ago that Guru Ram Das, fourth master of the Sikh religion, laid the foundations of the city as we know it.

In the old days, Amritsar was a dense forest scantily surrounded by pocket villages, making it an ideal place for wandering teachers and hermits to meditate in isolation. The Buddha himself was believed to have rested in the area and acquired prominence among his followers after the Sakyamuni had commented on it being a "spot best for the *bhikshus* (monks) to attain nirvana," being far superior in that respect to all the other places they had visited so far. But Amritsar's days of renown did not last long, and by the time Guru Nanak found it almost a thousand years later, it was again a deep and deserted woodland shared by the adjoining villages of Tung, Sultanwind, Gumtala and Gilwali.

Considered first among the 10 holy gurus (revealers of Truth) who established Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev lived between the 15th and 16th centuries, when the Mughal invaders swept through Afghanistan and into the northern subcontinent of India, terrorizing the local population with armed brutality. As a prophet and preacher, Guru Nanak believed in the "Fatherhood of God" and the "Brotherhood of Man." He spoke against the pervading caste system which promoted vast inequality among human beings. Going against the polytheism of traditional deity religion, he also taught his disciples to simplify their faith: to worship God and nothing else, with no idols or sacrificial rituals in between. With his core principles firmly rooted in universalism and liberalism, Nanak recognized all humanity as one and openly challenged the domination of the Mughal invaders in his belief that the free life was the only life worth living.

> Here, God's name has been remembered and His praise sung every passing minute of every single day for the last 400 years

Amritsar became the home of Guru Nanak in 1532, after he was charmed by the secluded spot. In 1574, the Fourth Master, Guru Ram Das, widened the existing pool and converted it into a tank, around which a whole city of devotees grew. Here, he laid the foundation of a village, Ramdaspur, which would later grow into a thriving center for commerce and worship. The excavation of the tank was completed in 1589 during the leadership of Guru Arjan. It was around this time that people began calling the place Amrit-Sarovar.

Checkered history

Guru Arjan Dev laid the foundation of the Golden Temple in 1589, completing construction in 1601. The Adi Granth (holy scriptures) was first installed here in 1604, with Baba Budha as the first granthi (reader of the holy text). Since then, the sacred scriptures have been read and chanted non-stop within the temple walls for four centuries.

As with most historical shrines, the Golden Temple has changed hands several times. For generations, Sikhs were turned out of their worship place and saw their temple repeatedly destroyed and desecrated by the Mughal invaders. Again and again, too, did the Sikhs recover and avenge the sacrilege at the price of tremendous sacrifice. Their tales of courage and martyrdom continue to live among the devout to this day. At one point in history, the Mughal governor of Lahore posted troops to keep the faithful away from Amritsar and Hari Mandir, so that a Sikh could only take a dip in the sacred waters at a risk to his life. Another Mughal commandant used the holy chamber as a dance hall for entertaining the troops. On other occasions, the Golden Temple had been locked, defamed and blown up with gunpowder.

Eventually, in 1767, the Sikhs were able to reclaim Punjab and take on the formidable task of reconstructing the Golden Temple. Under the leadership of Maharajah Ranjit Singh, the holy tank was cleared of debris and the temple became a masterwork of opulence, with the upper half gilded in gold-leafed copper sheets while the lower portion was covered with exquisite mosaics in marble and semiprecious stones. Three generations of rulers oversaw the decoration work - the Maharaja, his son Kharak Singh, and grandson Nau-Nihal Singh.

At the ground floor of the Golden Temple, the Adi Granth now lies on a platform under a gorgeous jewel-studded canopy. Every morning at 5, it is carried on a golden palanquin from the Akal Takhat (Divine Throne) to the Golden Temple, and carried back at 9 p.m. on the same palanquin. Although there is no formal or ritualistic worship, pilgrims often place offerings, like money and flowers, before the Holy Book, as hymns from the scriptures are chanted in the temple throughout the day, with accompaniment provided by ragis or musicians.

Another pavilion with a uniquely sacred purpose is the Shish Mahal (Hall of Mirrors), which is where the gurus used to sit. Exquisitely decorated by Ranjit Singh, with verses from sacred hymns inscribed in gold letters on its walls, the pavilion is now used for the Akhand Path, or the non-stop recitation of the Holy Scriptures from cover to cover—a marathon reading and prayer session that takes about 48 hours per rotation.

Bread and dahl

Today, the Golden Temple remains to be one of the major pilgrimage and tourist attractions of India, receiving several thousands of visitors per day. As it is run by devotees and unpaid helpers, the temple's cleanliness, orderliness and well-organized operation are a wonder of efficiency. Shrines and edifices are kept spotless by an army of men and women who continuously wipe and polish every conceivable surface, round the clock. Guides politely but firmly keep watch over large groups and keep crowds under control. There is no pushing or shoving, since men, women and children politely make their way to the shrines and quietly wait for their turn when make an offering.

But the real marvel of cooperative labor is the temple's Guru Ka Langar, or free kitchen, which feeds over 50,000 visitors with a simple fare of fresh *chapati* (unleavened bread) and *dahl* (legumes in broth) for free, 24 hours a day, irrespective of caste, creed or nationality. Expenses for the community kitchen are paid for through temple funds.

What instantly strikes any visitor to the Golden Temple is the open and welcoming spirit that is extended to everyone. Here, both pilgrims and tourists share the company of the devout, filling tired and heavy hearts with the lightness of prayer, and partaking of the generosity of spirit that freely abounds therein. Truly, when God is remembered by thousands of souls gathered in one sacred space, even the wind sings His praises.

Singapore Airlines recently launched a non-stop, direct service to Amritsar three times weekly. For inquiries, call 8104951 or 8104960.

Destination: Amritsar

WHETHER traveling to discover the historic beauty of Punjab or to take part in its thriving commerce and industry, passengers of Singapore Airlines can now enjoy greater convenience with its direct service to Amritsar, recently launched and offering non-stop B777 flights to and from Singapore three times a week.

The new service is SIA's seventh destination in India, opening Amritsar to the world the way it has linked New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Bangalore to major international hubs with 38 non-stop weekly services to the subcontinent.

"Opening the direct flight to Amritsar demonstrates Singapore Airlines' commitment to further strengthen our historic and commercial ties with India," says Huang Cheng Eng, executive vice president for marketing and the regions. "The service will benefit not only the Sikh communities overseas but also tourists and businesspeople who want direct and convenient links with Punjab through SIA's extensive route network in 40 countries."

With one of the highest growth and literacy rates in India, Punjab is a thriving and vibrant state in the Northwestern area, near the Pakistani border. Despite the perceived perils brought about by being so close to the state line, Punjab has proven be a key destination for investment and industry. Its per capita income is nearly double the all-India average and provides a significant portion of the country's production of wheat, rice and dairy goods. Moreover, it is completely self-sufficient in energy and charges the lowest power rates in the entire country.

VIP guests

It is not surprising then, that among the first passengers of SIA's inaugural flight to Amritsar on Oct. 1 was the "Singapore Sikhs" delegation, composed of top businessmen, cultural representatives and religious leaders who are members of the Singapore Khalsa Association and the Central Sikh Gurdwara Board. With total trade earnings hitting a record US$2.6 billion dollars as of May 2004, Singapore has become India's largest investor and the expatriate Sikh community definitely has a major role to play in deepening the economic ties between the two countries.

Heritage and religious tourism are also primary sources of revenue for Punjab, particularly Amritsar, which receives 6.5 million visitors each year, mostly pilgrims to the Golden Temple. Located in northwestern Punjab, Amritsar has been the capital of the Sikh religion for 400 years and is the seat of its most revered place of worship. Other places of interest include the Ram Bagh Gardens, which surrounds Maharaja Ranjit Singh's former summer palace, now a museum showcasing weapons dating back to the Mughal Empire; and the Jallianwalla Bagh, the quiet, walled garden that witnessed the massacre of some 2,000 innocent people on April 13, 1919, when British General O. Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on civilians sympathetic to the freedom movement: The bullet-scarred walls now enclose an eternal flame, a fitting memorial to the fallen men, women and children.

Unwitting attraction

An unusual attraction for both local and international tourists is the ceremony called "Beating the Retreat," held at sundown everyday at the Indo-Pak border in Wagha, 35 km from Amritsar. Thousands of onlookers from both sides of the border gather every afternoon to watch the Indian Army and Pakistani Rangers show off magnificently timed drills that precede the colors retreat. This exercise can be so mesmerizing and dramatic, it never fails to evoke patriotic sentiments from both sides. Spectators fill the air with songs.

Amritsar is also well-linked to the rest of India by air, road and rail, and is the gateway to neighboring states like Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Himachal Pradesh. This makes it an ideal entry point for travelers to Punjab and its environs.

"International visitors used to land in Delhi and take a five-hour train ride to get to Amritsar. With Singapore Airlines' new service, they can fly directly from Singapore to Amritsar in under six hours," says Tan Chik Quee, SIA vice president. "Anyway you look at it, that makes a world of difference in comfort and efficiency." *Angela Blardony Ureta*

Testy times spiritually beneficial

By Georgina C. Solina
Contributor

THE LAST three months of the year will be testy, but good for our souls.

Sun-Saturn conjunction at this time has a strong restrictive influence, preventing us from being happy and delaying good things. However, it has a long and beneficial influence on the shape of the Filipinos' destiny. We will have to experience a kind of death-and-rebirth process with Pluto, a powerful transformative planet transiting the First house of the Self or Identity in Sagittarius (religion, philosophy, travel).

What's being changed is the way we Filipinos approach the question, "Who am I?"

There are tougher battles to confront with the transit of Pluto opposition Sun (re-entered last Oct. 27, exact Nov. 26 and runs through Dec. 23). A renewed Arroyo administration faces an unexpected and shocking onslaught of a series of oil price hikes which piles one financial crisis upon another, exacerbating an already existing fiscal crisis without a resolution in sight.

Resilient by nature, we have learned to develop our intuition to help us overcome temporary difficulties. We are learning to go beyond petty party boundaries to form a unified stand against all odds. As a consequence, a change occurs that manifests the courage of many leaders to agree to sacrifice and exercise thrift, and for the leadership to check the hemorrhaging monetary system.

The Pluto transit will test our ability to withstand a continuing tight economic situation and to remain calm, assertive, and compromising. Pluto affects growth in people's lives by producing emotional shocks during these days through which some behavioral or life situation is forcefully removed from our lives. This process is associated with cataclysmic change such as devastating hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes. These occur when people in various parts of the world resist the clearing out of cumulative actions of past decades, hindering change.

> The last quarter will be challenging to us, both as individuals and as a people

New cycle

Pluto in the First house of Identity shows that a new growth cycle has begun for Filipinos. This will make us see that we have a special destiny to fulfill. We will make the sacrifice to leave our loved ones to work overseas as caregivers, nurses, and doctors, for instance—probably because it is by working abroad (Sagittarius the sign of foreign countries governs the national Ascendant) that we will discover who and what we are. Pluto seeks security through universality. As Filipinos explore greener pastures to secure their families at home, they acquire a universal perspective.

Relationships

Neptune (spiritual love) positively linked to Pluto (regeneration of physical realities) is empowering as an extraordinary physical attraction (entering Dec. 16). Some relationships will be longer-lasting than others. Some, more than others, will be based on sexuality. When individuals feel the instinctual attraction to another, there is a natural desire to find what the basis of attraction is. Frustration can result if existing circumstances in life do not allow them to follow through on this. Sometimes this attraction/repulsion dynamic works in such a way that one feels repelled by the very person he feels attracted to, because the feeling is threatening.

In such situations, people should balance their need for freedom and independence with their need for relationships. The reasons for these types of confrontations are 1) to promote lessons of equality especially where women have long been abused and regarded as inferior; 2) to promote lessons of giving, of listening; to fulfill another's needs before one's own; 3) to promote the awareness of one's intentions, motivations and the awareness of changing needs—each partner will then value commitment to the other and allow the relationship evolve.

As life unfolds, Filipinos will come to realize that they want and need to be in an intimate relationship on a sustained basis, not just through brief encounters, no matter how intense. By first learning how to give, they will learn that their own needs are subsequently answered.

Positive changes

Filipinos will strike out on their own in a leadership capacity (to serve as examples to others in and out of this country), so that they, too, can assert their right of individuality in ways they deem necessary. Many Filipinos will travel far, searching for ideas and truths of a transcendent and spiritual nature.

There is a restive labor force in the country that's demanding for increase in daily wages (Uranus negatively linked to Mercury, Oct. 6 to Dec. 18). Transport vehicles will clamor for a rise in fares due to new world oil prices. Heated discussions and accusations will tend to erupt during this transit, likely to uncover long hidden anomalies in the sixth sector of the national horoscope involving services, and the armed forces. Militant leftist groups will find this turbulent time as playing right up their alley, the better to denounce the government anew.

How will the planetary energies affect you on a personal level?

Travel may be quite disruptive. No matter how carefully one plans, the trip will not work out as envisioned. There is also the danger of accidents, so drive carefully.

Old ideas and opinions are being challenged. It could be that some people have become too fixed in their view of life, or simply that some of us are being tested to stand by our own beliefs. Either way, communications and agreements of all kinds will be disrupted. We may feel the urge to seek out new information that may liberate us from old thought patterns as greater clarity comes our way. By the end of this negative transit a sense of freedom will have come.

Relationships will now be formed with teachers and communities of like-minded individuals (Uranus passing through the Philippine chart's 3rd House of Communications). For those involved in intellectual pursuits, this will be an exciting time because they will see facets of life that were not apparent before. Old habits of thinking and seeing will fall away. They may open up to new interests, particularly those that are Uranian in nature, such as the sciences, technology, yoga, astrology and the esoteric. For those afraid or suspicious of change; everything that happens will be upsetting. Unemployment will remain a serious problem.

Money energy

Finances have been a source of confusion (Neptune in the 2nd House of Finances). Perhaps people are unsure of their income, and therefore have difficulty planning. By plunging into an economic crisis or "hell" and experiencing a kind of death, we will gain better perspective.

However, a new cycle of financial life for the country began this month with Jupiter, the great luck planet, conjunct radix Jupiter in 10th house of career (national chart). It shows the end of a cycle of beliefs. People have been learning about their own spiritual, religious or philosophical belief, and now many of them have attained a new level of understanding. New activities have begun to help them in the next cycle of learning.

Neptune (divine love) enters the 3rd House of Communications (Nov. 29). Imagination and intuition is heightened during this period, resulting in an increased interest in the arts and the spiritual world. People may have some difficulty thinking in a logical fashion, and would be wise to avoid signing contracts and making business decisions. Communication on a personal level such as phone calls, letters, and e-mails could be a little confusing. Nonetheless, this is a good time for any project in business requiring special talent in creativity and artistic flair.

Spiritual power

Spiritual power that comes from within the mind and soul blossoms (Neptune trine Pluto re-entering Dec. 16) People will feel powerful and in tune with the Divine, with no need for external approval. Thus, opportunities abound for advancement in their chosen careers, particularly in the field of healing, as others recognize their strength and integrity. By healing we don't just mean going to a hospital, or taking an aspirin. Healing also can and does occur through the arts—music, poetry, writing, painting, design—and mind-growth through studies of religion, philosophy, and metaphysics.

Filipinos will discover their true gifts and find avenues of expression in work here and abroad (Saturn trine Chiron, entering Dec. 25). Those already aware of their gifts can move forward in the knowledge that the timing is right to share their talents with the world.

By December, the energies will propel us to strike the right balance between confidence and persistence, required to propel us towards our goals (Jupiter trine radix Pluto, Dec. 2 to Dec. 15). At this time, high-voltage energies will seem to flow in the direction that we want, presenting opportunities for taking control in some way.

This happens because we are motivated by something higher in value than personal ambition. The transit brings professional success, political power or tremendous gains, or a chance to straighten out situations that have been sources of trouble.

JESSIE Sincioco says life is more than just desserts.

Keep 'em coming back for more

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

"VENERABLE" is a term rarely used in Manila's faddish restaurant scene; yet it invariably comes to mind when describing Le Soufflé The establishment endured the '90s into the new millennium with grace; and counts the crème dela crème of society, business and politics among its patrons.

"We opened the original Greenbelt branch in 1991, so Le Soufflé is now a teenager," says Chef Jessie Sincioco, one of the owners, who oversees the Pasig branch. So synonymous is Le Souffle with fine dining, that when it opened in Ortigas Center as a bistro, there was much resistance from its regulars. As if bound by some unwritten code, "people would still come in wearing a coat and tie," she says.

The Pasig outlet opened on Valentine's Day 2000 to a packed house; they served 130 covers that day. When the restaurant was spruced up after a while, much of the menu of the original branch carried over.

From that exercise, the lesson that the partners learned well was not to mess with a winning concept. The two other branches, one at The Fort and the other known as Top of the Citi, have stuck to the restaurant-cum-wine bar theme. And as Sincioco explains it, Le Soufflé's main menu is filled with not just mainstays, but must-stays.

Calculated to please

At the Ortigas branch, it is clear just how adept this restaurant has become at keeping clients happy. Take the basket of warm bread served de rigeur. There is a choice either of round dinner rolls, superior to those served in most local restaurants, and the Le Soufflé version of the ciabatta. Purists may frown at the liberties Sincioco (being pastry chef as well) has taken with the Italian flat bread; but this thick, meaty version, encased in a thin, crisp crust, is wonderfully light and wildly popular with patrons.

Ditto with everything presented to us at dinner. While these are not listed on the regular menu, one gets the sense that each dish—from our starters of baked mussels, and the salmon tartare; to our entrees of grilled sea bass and lamb loin; to our heady desserts—is measured, safe, and calculated to please.

First, the sampler of baked mussels, with garlic butter, tomato sauce and creamed spinach. Nothing novel, save for the fact that the shellfish were very large and plump; indeed, among the meatiest I have seen this side of the Pacific.

Then, the salmon tartare, another sure hit. Presented as a demi-serving; the finely chopped salmon flesh sits in glistening peachy-pink contrast to the lime green wasabi vinaigrette. The topping of alfalfa sprouts provides a welcome shot of tartness, although the chopped ginger could have been done away with, as its flavor threatens to overpower the delicate taste of the fish.

As for the salad, we can almost hear Sincioco cracking her knuckles in the kitchen. The varied greens are topped with the sweet-succulent-velvety trio of grilled shiitake mushrooms, seared scallops and pan-fried foie gras. The salad also features a strong-tasting dressing, which we were hard-put to take apart.

The skillfully prepared entrees again skew toward the familiar, and should be crowd-pleasers: for the carnivore, lamb loin wrapped in chopped mushrooms, goat cheese and bacon then drizzled with red wine sauce; for those seeking lighter fare, grilled sea bass atop garlic mashed potatoes.

Sincioco shows her partiality to desserts via Princess Carmen, a layered torte not unlike the sans rival, but lightened up taste-wise by using cream instead of butter; and a parfait made of a small scoop each of cherry-almond and pistachio ice cream made from scratch, then surrounded by lady fingers dipped in liqueur. The former is for those with a sweet tooth; while the latter's more subtle flavors is a perfect palate cleanser for those seeking relief after a heady meal.

The secret to Le Soufflé's success is simple. "We've become known as the restaurant that gives clients what they want," says Sincioco. Thus even with several menu pages of classic Le Soufflé dishes, a diner can still request off-menu items. As we have seen during the dinner, and as the restaurant has proven through the years, Le Soufflé's chefs are only too happy to oblige.

Photo: Patrick Uy
Grooming, hair and makeup: Liza Baltazar
Assistant: Connie Buenafe for Essensuals Toni & Guy

Keeping the future open

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

Jacques Derrida's main intent was to go beyond ways of thinking that simply repeat the past, and to welcome unforeseeable meanings

IN MARCH 2004, Jacques Derrida, the popular contemporary French philosopher, considered two things that could happen after his death.

First: "Two weeks or a month after my death, nothing will remain." Second: "They are only beginning to read me now."

With his passing in Paris last October 9 at age 74, Derrida may have just put new energy and life not only to philosophy but also to other domains like psychoanalysis, literature, the arts, architecture, law, politics, theology, photography, and even fashion.

What exactly was Derrida's goal? His prodigious output (50 books in 35 years) may be interpreted under the motif of a "journey to an elsewhere." This journey involves a continual going beyond ways of thinking that simply repeat the past. Derrida's main intent was to keep the future open for meanings that are unforeseeable, unheard of. One must think outside the box. One must create a space for alternatives, for differences. At a time when differences are neglected and alternatives ignored, Derrida wanted to keep the future "on reserve."

Paradoxical success

This obsession with a future "on reserve" may perhaps explain Derrida's paradoxical success. How can a thinker, writing in difficult prose, excite an international following? Aside from his writings, his diverse interests, his personal charm, one can point as a major factor the enthusiasm of many literature professors and critics in applying Derrida's supposed method in the interpretation of texts. In a more radical way, Derrida's attention on the unforeseen, the different, the alternative resonated with a generation that has gone into hitherto unforeseeable studies—cultural, post-colonial, gender, women, gay and lesbian, African, Asian studies.

In this view, the principle of "deconstruction" (now forever linked with Derrida) may be taken basically as putting into question present accepted concepts ... to keep the future open for unheard of meanings. According to Derrida, one must never believe that all questions have been settled, that all answers are adequate. Nothing is ever evident as one would like to think. In dealing with subjects like hospitality, pardon, and responsibility, one always needs to pay more attention and to cultivate more openness of spirit.

What it's not

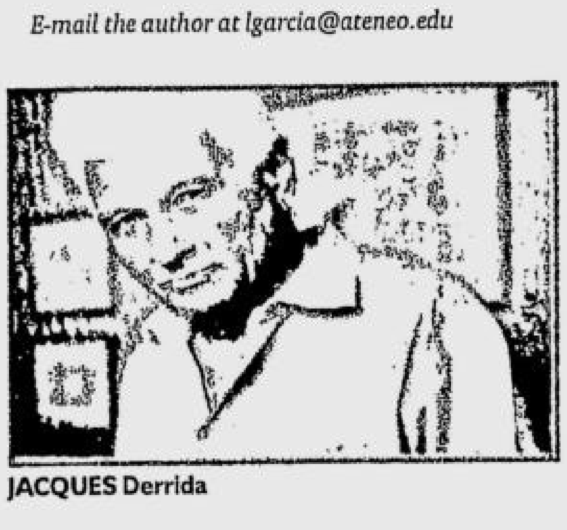
On many occasions, Derrida stressed what "deconstruction" was not, more than what it was. In an interview dated June 30, 1992, he reiterated that deconstruction neither means destruction nor dissolution. It is neither a method nor a technique. It is not a school of thought. If one were to go by Derrida's "economic, elliptical description," it is thinking of the origin and limits of the question, "What is ...?" that is often asked in philosophy. It seeks to question the very question posed by philosophy.

Deconstruction seeks to open new perspectives in fossilized thinking. In questioning the presuppositions of a text, it wants to open the text to other possible meanings, different from those already given by tradition.

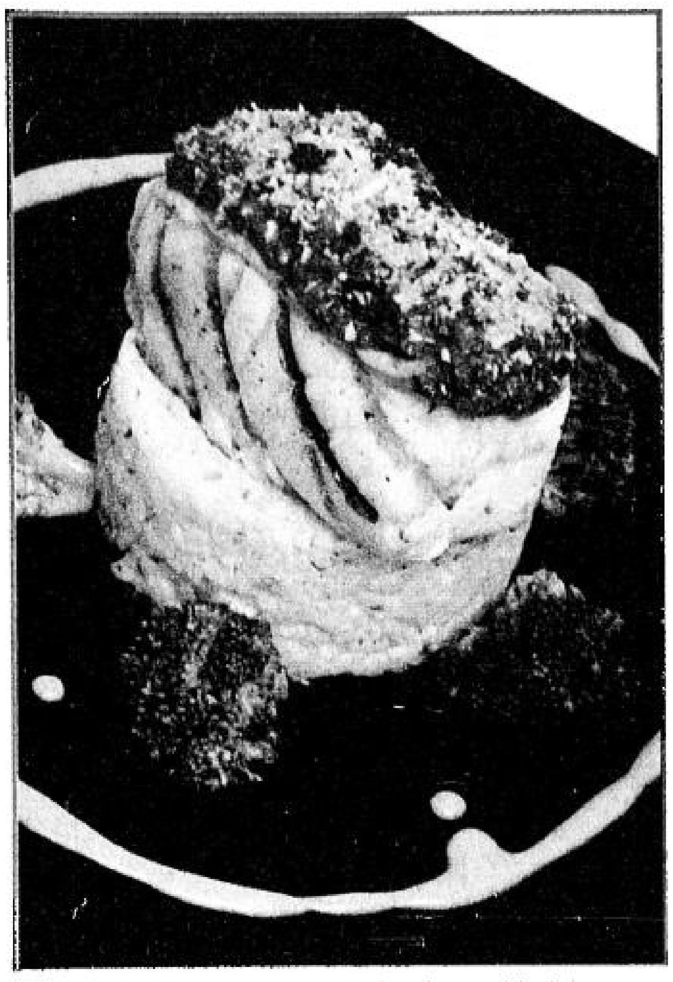
Deconstruction does not take texts apart to destroy them but to bring out other possible—yes, unheard of, unforeseeable—meanings. For Derrida, philosophy is "congenitally" deconstructive. It always strives to think beyond what is evident. Far from being "nihilistic," deconstruction is always on the side of the yes. Once asked what lay between dust and dust, Derrida immediately answered "Life!" For him, there was life for as long as the future was kept open for such unheard of meanings.

René Wellek, an eminent literary critic, denounced Derrida's approach in 1983, saying that Derrida had "encouraged utter caprice, extreme subjectivity, and hence the destruction of the very concepts of knowledge and truth." Could it be that Wellek, like many others, had judged Derrida without reading his texts? If so, it is not yet late to begin reading Derrida's texts which "survive" him, in that they continue to live after him.

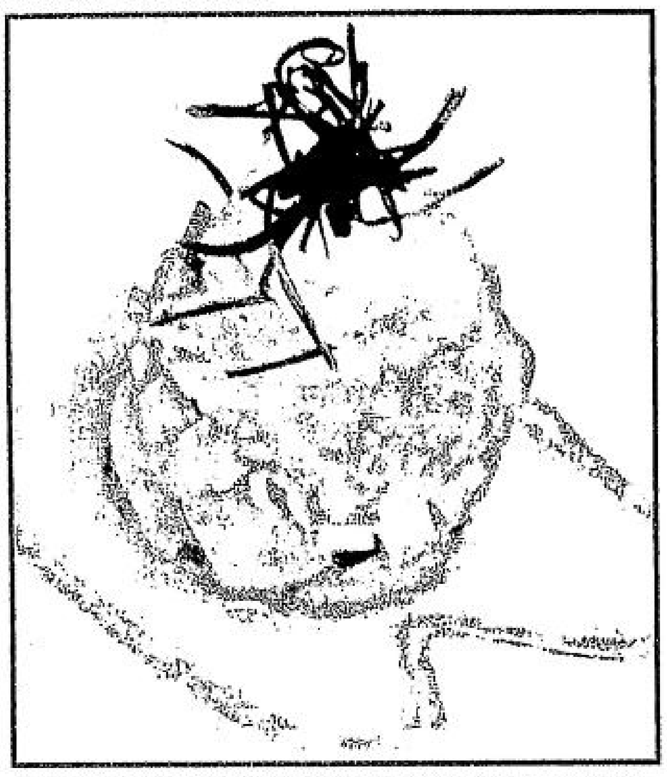
E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu



JACQUES Derrida



OVEN-baked tapenade-encrusted seabass, with choron sauce and saffron risotto



DEA sea ceviche (*kinilaw*) with *kalamansi* and ginger sorbet

Where to find ostrich steak on Boracay?

Check out Fridays Resort, whose kitchen crew is bent on pleasing picky clients

Photos by Bobot Meru

WHEN diners demand that their tenderloin, whether black angus or rib eye, come from the United States and nowhere else, it only means they know the best and are willing to pay for quality. Such is the clientele of Fridays Resort. Which is why the restaurant is always on its toes, sticking to high standards of fine dining on the beachfront—thanks to its best-kept secret, executive chef Fortunato Fulgencio, who has a vivid imagination and a flair for mixing flavors and textures.

Classic repertoire

The menu consists of classics. The finest goose liver under a hazelnut crust, drenched in a coulis with hints of passion fruit. The magret de canard is baked in orange sauce with grand marnier and port, accompanied by grilled tomato.

And where else on the island could one find ostrich steak? Fulgencio gets the premium cuts from Cagayan de Oro, marinates them in balsamic vinegar with tarragon, rosemary, thyme and sage, and bakes them. He recommends them medium rare because of the low, fat content. The mustard pepper sauce is a harmony of red wine, meat jus and tangy mustard.

The sea bass is packaged in a crust of fine black olives, anchovies, capers, blended in olive oils and herbs, such as basil, which emits a fragrant aroma. It is slathered in hollandaise sauce made with clarified butter. The juicy lamb shank is braised with beef and chicken stock over low heat for four hours until it is tender.

Even the pasta selection is above the ordinary. Pasta jambalaya is unique, made from smoked chorizo and local seafood. For the pomodoro, Fulgencio uses white wine sauce for a continental taste. The carbonara is cream thickened with egg yolk and velute and made richer with herbs and mushrooms.

Lobster thermidore is made from juicy bits sautéed in garlic, onion, pepper, celery and mushroom and deglazed with white wine. After adding velute and white sauce, the filling is returned to the shell and baked. It is generously topped with melted parmesan cheese and a hint of mustard.

From the Asian menu, the *bulgogi* remains the best seller. The meat is grilled Korean style with garlic, onions and ginger.

The snacks are also diet busters. The fish and chips is touted as the best in Boracay. Strips of *lapu-lapu* are coated in beer batter with vinegar for a strong taste. These are accompanied by huge slices of potatoes.

The triple-decker sandwich is another specialty, because the bread is freshly baked in Friday's kitchen. Filled with burger, lettuce, tomatoes and chicken marinated in tarragon for the special taste, the sandwich is roasted in a panini griller so that the outside is crisp and while the inside is juicy.

Fulgencio can prepare anything that a customer requests, even it it's not on the menu.

Seductive desserts

The main fare is matched by the dessert selection. One is visually arrested by a seductive display of cakes, created by pastry chef John Melo Magtibay.

Topped with white chocolate curls and caramel stripes, the chocolate caramel cake is layered alternately with moist chocolate sponge cake and feathery caramel mousse. Chocolate Majestic, a cross between a mousse and ice cream cake, is a feather-light concoction of chocolate and liqueur-flavored cream atop a bed of sponge cake. It is made more memorable with the chocolate shavings and cherries.

Magtibay is proud of his brownies. Unlike most others that are soft and spongy and reeks of cocoa powder, Fridays' are nutty and chewy in the French tradition. They are made of pure chocolate, melted in high-quality butter and mixed with fine powdered sugar and nuts. After going through a complicated procedure, the brownie mix is baked to perfection. The top is chewy but the center is luscious.

The pastry chef also concocted the pineapple and coconut strudel—a sponge with a filling of dessicated coconut and pineapple flavoring, made distinct with the traditional combination of cinnamon and brown sugar. The strawberry charlotte is a mousse with soft sponge and liqueur, crowned with luscious strawberries, almond flakes and white chocolates.

A favorite of most guests is the white chocolate sponge cake with raspberry jam at the bottom and slathered with berry syrup. Chocoholics can have their fix with ganache, made of chocolate fudge.

Even the cheesecakes—varieties of chocolate marble, blueberry and mango—are perfect-firm on the outside but soft and sweet with a subtle tang on the inside. Another comfort food is the tiramisu, made of coffee-flavored, authentic mascarpone cheese.

Exotic banana cake

Foreigners adore the banana crepe cake for its exotic richness. The filling is made of rich cream folded with soft cream cheese and spiked with banana extract and liquer. It is made more attractive with toppings of fresh banana and apricot jelly.

Magtibay's version of the sans rival is the King Oscar. He uses butter cream, flavored with almond, between layers of meringue instead of the traditional sans rival that uses cashews and creme. Because Fridays would like to remain a child-friendly resort, Magtibay can create imaginative sundaes mixing cones, chocolate, marshmallow and other ingredients, if requested.

Guests are treated to homemade chocolate truffles every night to cap their dinner. The truffles are served on fresh leaves. The recipe sticks to the classic firm shell with melted centers. The meal and confections guarantee sweet dreams.

Marge C. Enriquez

For reservations, call the Manila land line at 8929283 or fax 8929118

FRIDAYS' collection. Trio of King Oscar, chocolate ganache and White Velvet

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2004 ✦ 4 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 2, NUMBER 6

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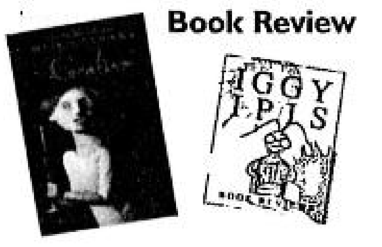


Kids explore Davao the CSIW way

By Mae Astrid Tobias
Contributor

CAN you name five things that can be found in Davao City? Mt. Apo, the Great Philippine Eagle, *durian*, the *waling-waling* flower, and this year's Children's Science Interactive Workshop (CSIW) organized by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs (PSYSC).

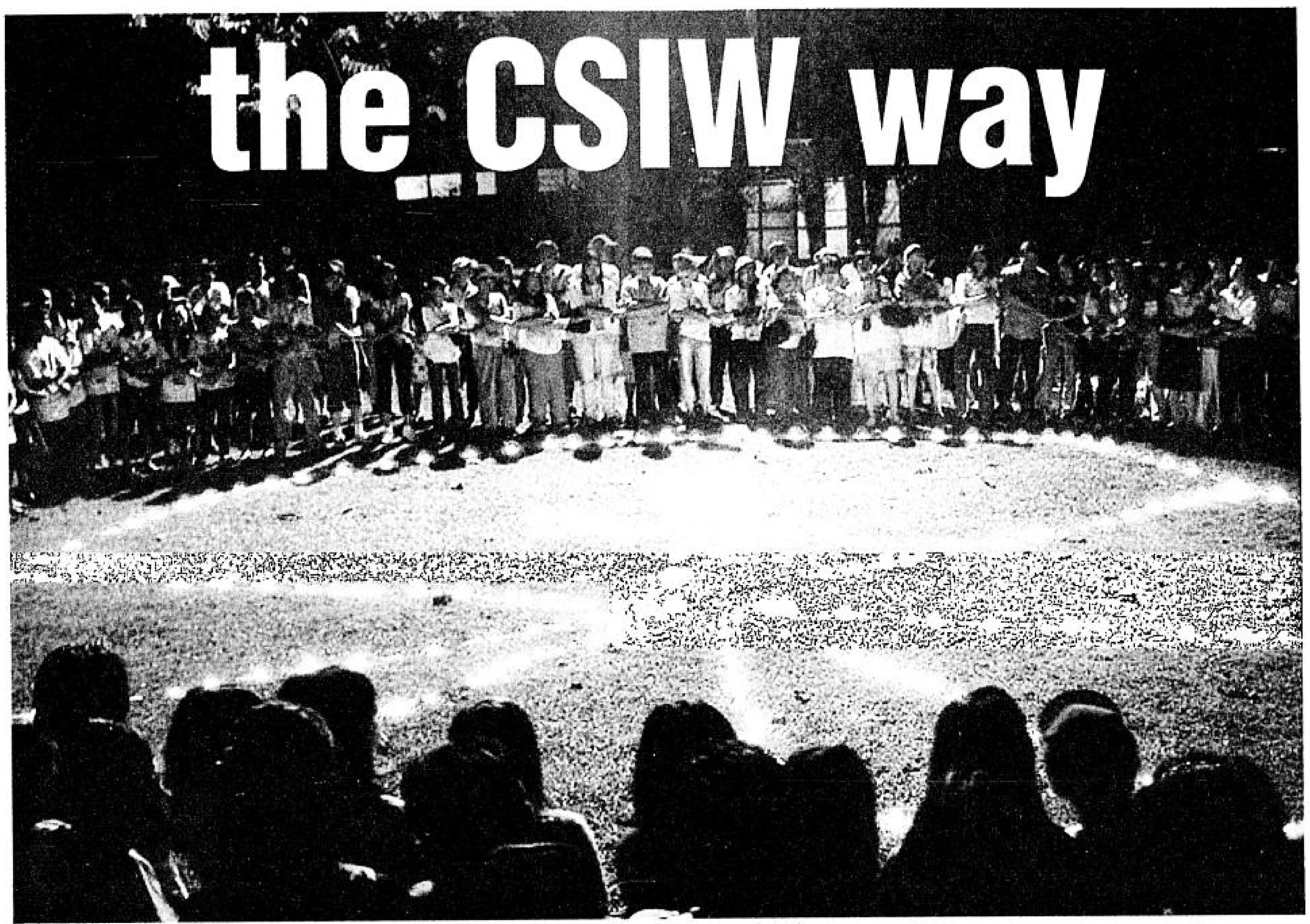
With the theme, "GeoXpedition: Experience Earth to the Extreme," nearly 500 elementary students from 77 schools all over the country gathered at the Malagos Garden Resort in Davao City last Oct. 19 to 23.

According to Larisa Mae Quijano, current president of PSYSC, the workshop's main objective is to promote interest in science, technology, and the environment, and encourage kids to become scientists someday.

For five fun-filled days, the kids learned more about fossils, volcanoes, typhoons and hurricanes, the ocean and how to take care of Mother Earth.

Darius Pineda, a Grade 6 student from Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School SPED Center in Kidapawan City, said that he learned from Dr. Carlo Arcilla's talk on Environmental Geology that proper disposal of garbage is important.

"I didn't know that garbage can be useful," he said. "You can get gas from it—biogas which can be used for for cooking."



ON their last night, the CSIWs pledged their continuing loyalty to science clubbing.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Explosive fun

Gio Cahilsot, a Grade 4 student from Quantum Learning Center in Lagao, General Santos City, enjoyed their volcanology workshop session with Dr. Alfredo Mahar Lagmay. They created a volcano out of sand and then mixed baking soda with vinegar to make it erupt.

During the "Geolympics," participants had to rack their brains to name the oceans in a blank map and identify various rocks.

Belle Luzuriaga of Bago City Elementary School in Negros Occidental had to recite all the geological hazards she knew so that her "phyle" or team could move to the next challenge.

Pupils from selected schools also performed in a talent night called "Apollo's Quest."

The best part of CSIW was the field trip where kids saw the different attractions of Davao City.

Orchids and Eagles

One of the first stops was the Puentespina Orchid Farm, a giant greenhouse where anthuriums, chrysanthemums, lilies— not just orchids—were being grown.

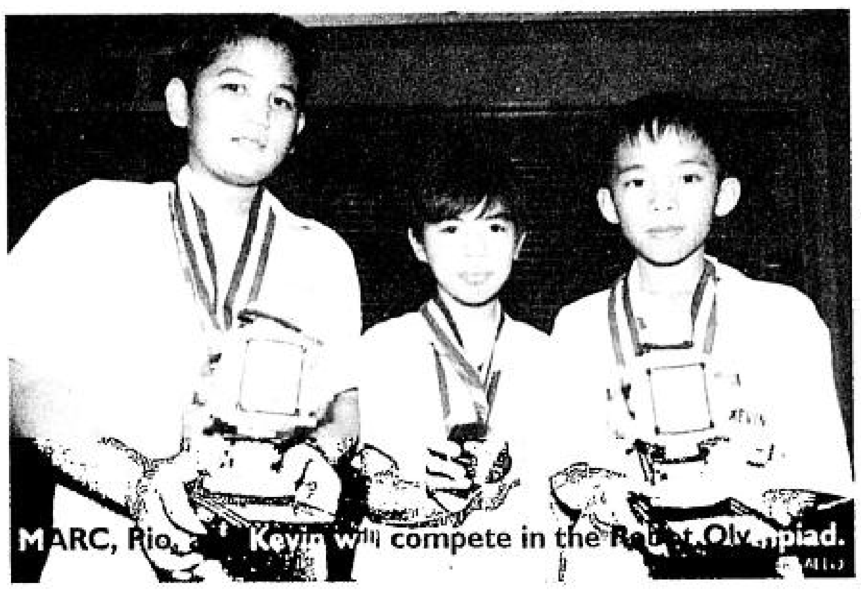
Next stop was the Philippine Eagle Foundation. The kids met the very famous Pag-asa, the first Philippine Eagle to be hatched in captivity. Other destinations for the day were the GAP Farm and the Science Centrum.

Dindi Laguna, a Grade 4 student from Apostol Memorial Central Elementary School in North Cotabato, enjoyed meeting the eagles at PEF.

Dindi said she learned that eagles shouldn't be killed but should be cared for because there are only few of them left.

Christian James Pinggol, a Grade 5 student from Quantum Learning Center, said he was impressed to see how one of the eagles, Maginoo, soared in his cage. He said that when he goes back home, he will tell his friends about what he learned and invite them to visit the places he went to.

Following tradition, CSIW participants gathered for the pledge night. They lighted candles and promised to apply what they learned, take care of the environment, and return to next year's CSIW which will be held in Luzon.



MARC, Pio, and Kevin will compete in the Robot Olympiad.

Batangas kids take on battle of 'bots

By Eline Santos

BATANGAS kids from First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan will represent the country in the 1st World Robot Olympiad to be held in Singapore from Nov. 5 to 7.

Competing in the primary category (ages 10 to 12) are sixth-graders Kevin Matthew Yatco, Pio Angelico Encarnacion, and Marc Joseph Garcia.

Experience will hopefully help the team as Kevin competed in the regular category of the International Robotics Olympiad in Seoul, Korea last year. Teammate Pio competed in the open category.

"The events are harder this year," said Kevin. "Last year there was stair climbing and line tracing. Now we have wrestling and a maze."

What to expect

The first event in next Saturday's olympiad is the sprint where robots "race" a course.

In the maze/slalom, the

Batangas kids/ p. 4

Davao bird show in Manila

It's a bird... which came by plane... with a super vet!

By Eline Santos

CRAVING for a taste of Davao? Visit the Malagos Garden's Amazing Bird Show which will be at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City until Jan. 30 of next year.

You can meet basketball playing parrots, Maganda and Wali; Wacky the crow who swoops for the P100 bill in a crowd; and Leila, a scooter-riding cockatoo.

You'll also see kites, ostriches, hornbills, a sea eagle, and more.

To give them time to feel at home in their new environment, the feathered cast flew in (by plane) two months before the show's opening.

Eleven-year-old King Puentespina, a fifth-grader at the Ateneo Grade School in Quezon City, says he likes Leila best because, "she has lots of tricks."

On the other hand, younger brother Patrick likes Maganda because of her basketball skills.

King and Patrick are nephews of the show's mastermind, multi-awarded veterinarian Roberto "Bo" Puentespina, Jr.

Meet the Bird Man

Dr. Bo started out as a volunteer veterinarian for the Philippine Eagle Foundation in 1990. They would rescue eagles with gunshot wounds in remote mountains, rehabilitate them, and release them into the wild.

With the release of the captive-bred eagle, Kabayan, Dr. Bo feels he has come full circle and is eager to pour his energies into other bird species that he feels are neglected.

Currently, Dr. Bo takes care of about 400 birds at the Bird Park in their family-owned Malagos Garden Resort in Davao City.

The bird park officially came to be after the Philippine Eagle Center decided to focus on raptors in 2001. The non-raptors—parrots, crows, hornbills, etc.—thus found themselves in a new home with Dr. Bo.

Life after Rehab

While the goal is to release the birds back into the wild, sometimes it just can't be done.

Five of the kites performing at the show were rescued when they were babies. Since they imprinted on their human companions (meaning they now consider their humans as mom and dad), the kites can no longer be released into the wild.

Because of such cases, Dr. Bo was inspired to do the bird show. The show not only entertains while it teaches about birds and the environment; profits go to the feathered residents of Bird Park and funds research in wildlife conservation.

Dr. Bo says they want to highlight how the birds behave in nature. Each of the bird's tricks is based on how they actually behave on their own.

One of their policies is not to take anything from the wild. That's why, Dr. Bo explains, they

Davao/ p. 4

Kids'r'rific
nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____

She/he lives at ____________________

and studies at ____________________

Her/his contact number is: ____________________

Sender's Name: ____________________

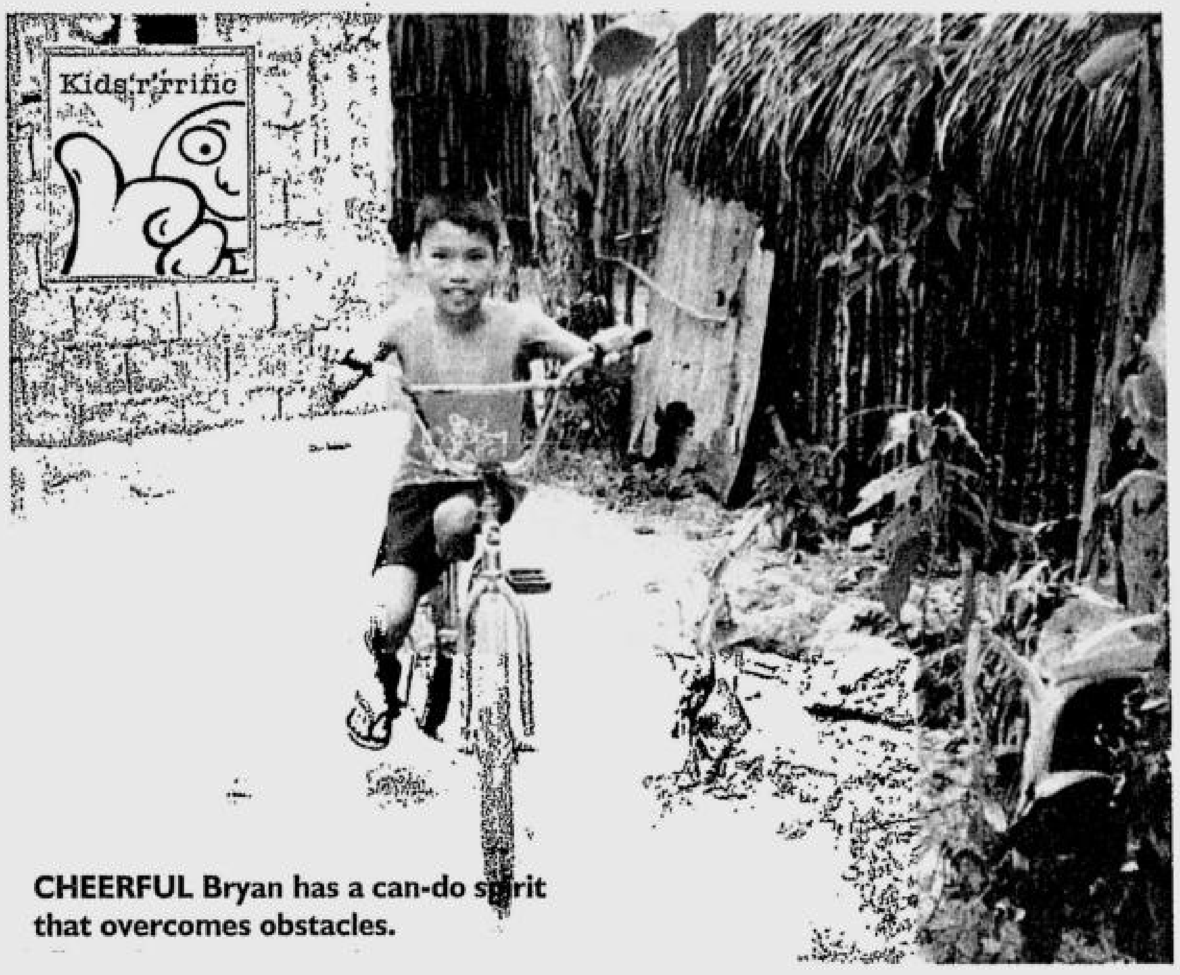
Sender's Age & School: ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________

Sender's Contact No. ____________________

Look Ma, no leg!

This boy from Eastern Samar bikes and plays basketball with one leg



CHEERFUL Bryan has a can-do spirit that overcomes obstacles.

ELEVEN-year-old Bryan only learned to bike after he lost his leg in an accident two years ago.

It was a rainy November afternoon and Bryan was playing with friends inside a house that was under construction. In trying to reach a spider with a bamboo stick, Bryan instead touched a live wire and was electrocuted.

Doctors saved his life but not his left leg which had to be amputated.

Even so, Bryan would gleefully hop around the house, dashing from the kitchen where he would prepare rice cakes, then to the living room where he would watch his favorite cartoon shows.

Not being able to walk to school motivated Bryan to learn how to bike. The fourth-grader from Balangkayan Elementary School now actually gives his 7-year-old sister a ride to school.

A sponsored child of Plan International, Bryan doesn't complain about the material things he doesn't have. Instead, he helps in the farm, sells rice cakes, and plays his favorite sport, basketball.

His mother describes the fourth-grader as an obedient and loving son who can be relied on for favors anytime.

"I want to finish my studies and become a teacher someday," says Bryan. "I want to teach Filipino. I will tell my students to study hard and read always."—*Beng Ragon*

Junior INQUIRER Special

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Letters to the editor may be sent to our e-mail address <ji@inquirer.com.ph>. Our office is at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, Philippines, with telephone number 897-8808 local 340. Snail mail: P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines. E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

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2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

JOURNAL PAGES

Trading Spooks for a Sister

By Ana Katrina Alfonso
Miriam College
Quezon City

MUCH as it pains me to admit it, I slept in my parents' room not for a night but for so many years.

I'm the baby of the family and my parents would have let me stay in their room if it wasn't for my sister.

When I was a little kid, I believed that there were monsters—*tiyanak*, *manananggal*, and other creatures—roaming the house at night. So I would make sure that I'm in my parents' room when it starts to get dark and sleeping time drew near.

One time, my sister challenged me to sleep in my room. I agreed because she promised to sleep with me in my double-decked bed, which had been unused since I spent the nights in my parents' room.

I stayed and slept on the lower bed while my sister slept on the upper bed. I slept on the lower bed because I thought that if a monster attacked during the night I could easily get away and run to my parents' room!

When I woke up that morning, I was so happy and excited to tell everybody that I did it! I slept in my room for the first time. Starting that day, I slept in my room alone.

However, a time came when my sister got sick and she requested me to be her little nurse.

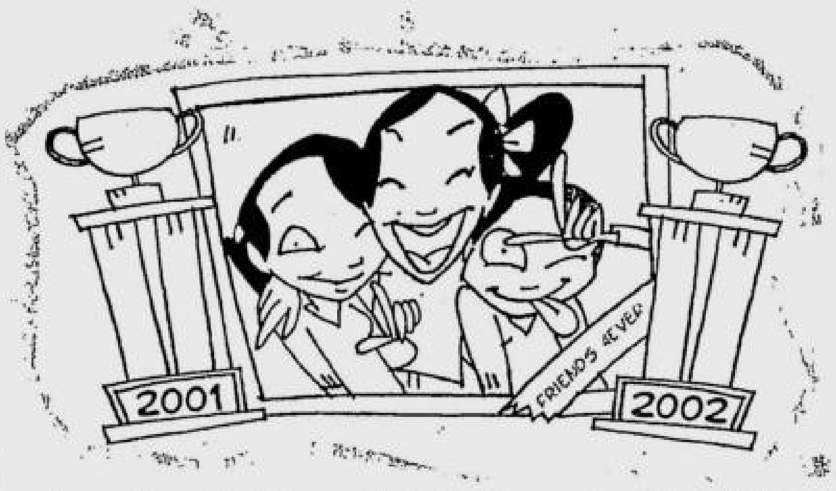
I said, "Sure!"

I set my cell phone alarm so that I could wake her and tell her to drink her medicine. That time gave me the opportunity to help my sister when she needed me.

And now, I am back in my room... with my sister. This time, it is not because I'm afraid of night creatures that wander in our house but because my sister and I share secrets. We giggle over funny moments and sometimes console each other for the sad things that happened during the day. Night time is now an occasion I look forward to.

The Party Of Defeat

By Bea Reyes
Stella Maris Academy of Davao
Davao City



I WAS a fourth-grader in a new school. I was too shy to even make new friends. I spent all my time inside the library reading all the books there was to read.

The only person I could call a friend was the librarian who would let me into the restricted sections.

September came and the whole school was buzzing with excitement because of the Sportsfest. They sorted us into two teams, Yellow and Green. I was in the Green team.

I was surprised to be included in some of the games, namely volleyball, bowling, tug-o-war, and basketball. Maybe it was because of my size. I was pretty big for a fourth-grader. I didn't even break into sweat in the tug-o-war. But, luck wasn't on our side. They won and they got the trophy.

While the Yellow team was having their victory party in the sixth-grade room, my Green team friends and I were in the next room talking about how we lost. Finally, one of my friends came up with a plan.

"Why don't we celebrate? Let's hold our own Party of Defeat right now!" she yelled.

We called teammates to get food and meet us in the room next to the Yellow team's victory party.

We had a blast—eating, drinking and yelling, "We're the losers!" until the bell rang and it was time for us to clean up. We actually made more noise than the victory party!

I'll never forget that day when a group of losers decided to show that it's not only the trophy that makes one a winner. Accepting defeat, and still holding one's head high, is a sign of a true winner.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

Letter to GMA

DEAR Madame President,

I have heard about the austerity campaign of the government.

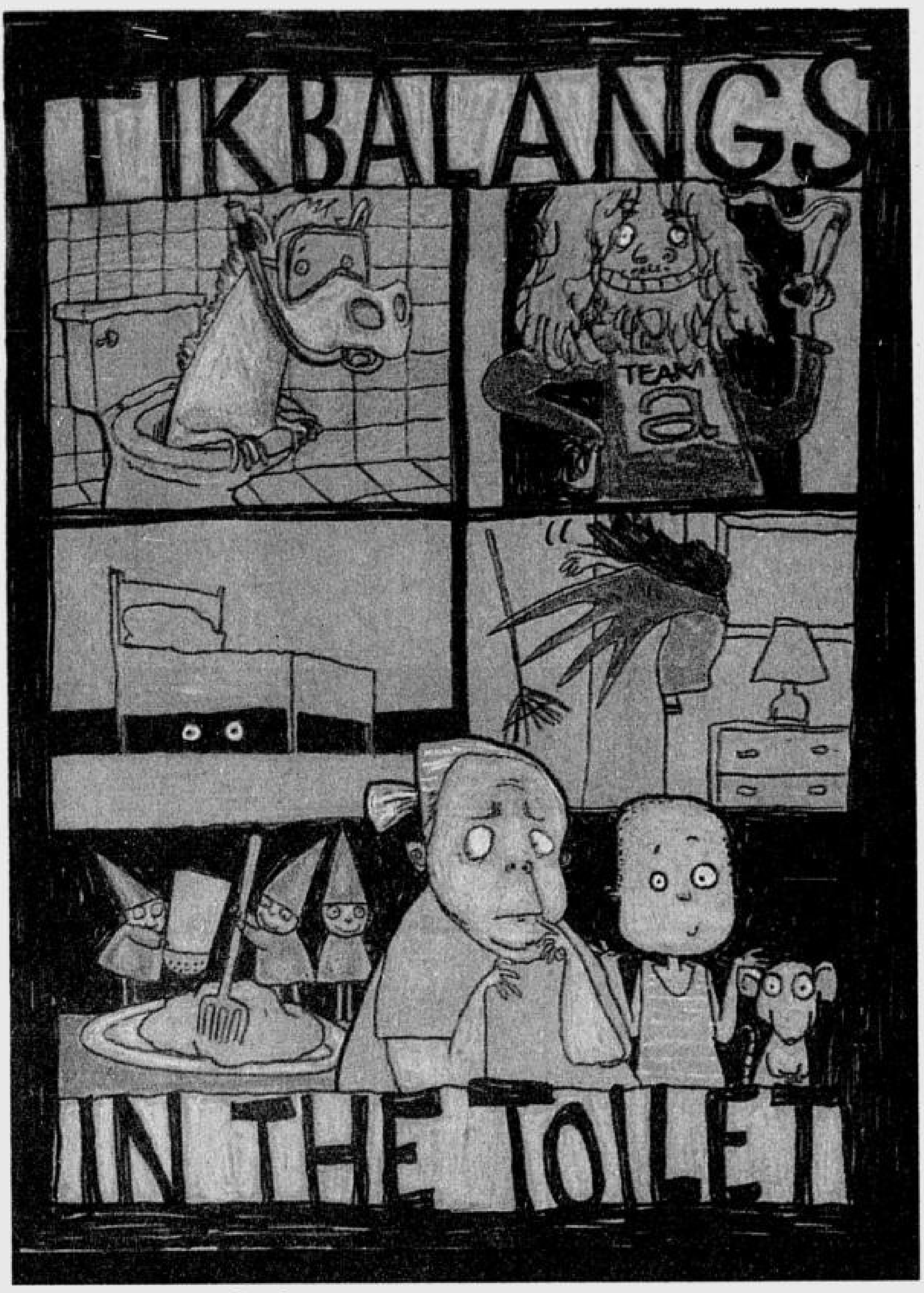
As a student, I can help in this campaign by not using too much electricity, that is, I will only use light and the air-con whenever necessary. I can also help by conserving water because without it, people cannot live. Furthermore, I can help by taking good care of Mother Nature. I can plant different kinds of trees and other types of plants, and dispose of garbage properly.

Thank you, Madame President, for reading my letter.—**THEA CALDERON**, Jesu-Mariae School Mary Help of Christians, Parañaque City

The accompanying artwork was made by Connie May Babierra, also a third-grader from Jesu-Mariae School.

FOR or BY KIDS

By Mae Astrid Tobias
Illustration by Jason Moss



Shhh! If you promise to be quiet,
I'll share with you a little secret.
Swear that you'll never squeal
All the things I'm going to spill.

You see, I discovered until recently
Our house keeps peculiar company.
When it's dark and there's no light,
Strange creatures it would invite.

In the middle of the night, it was kind of late,
I felt the urge to urinate.
When I got up, I was met
By a *tikbalang* in the toilet.

I rushed to tell my mommy
Who just said, "Oh, dear, don't be silly.
Next time, you'll say, I bet
There are *kapres* in the closet."

But there are! At least one so far.
Dark and smelly with his cigar.
He was crunched inside, quite alert
Wearing my favorite sweatshirt!

Again, I tried to tell my mother.
I don't know why I even bother.
Because this is what she said,
When I thought I saw something under the bed.
"Dear, your wild imagination
will put us in an embarrassing situation.
I don't want to hear any buts,
Please try to get some eyes shut."

So, I guess my mother is not interested
To know which creature is under the bed.
Or about the *duwendes* in the dining room
Nor the *manananggals* borrowing our broom.

But still this mystery, I contemplated.
Constantly, I ruminated.
Why are these creatures in the house?
Why can't we just have a regular mouse?

Then suddenly, it occurred to me.
Where else should *tikbalangs* pee?
And I guess, *kapres* know better,
In case of bad weather,
to wear a warm sweater.

As for the *duwendes*, I learned,
They don't like their eggs and toast burned.
They also have perfect table manners,
Not to mention, the best party planners.

Now, the *manananggals* to me are a pest.
They just keep trying their best
To get their hands on the broom
So start tidying up my room.

***Astrid** is currently finishing her M.A. in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines. She is the president of Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting (KUTING).*
***Jason** is a painter, children's book illustrator and editorial cartoonist. You may e-mail him at mosscake@yahoo.com.*

IGGY IPIS BOOK REVIEWS

Visiting a place like home... not!

I JUST came back from a vacation at my cousins' place. They live in an old apartment about a block from where I live. I've never seen any place like it before. Their neighbors were beetles, earthworms and white cockroaches! We also had a wonderful time exploring the ceilings, broken light bulbs and even abandoned sinks. Needless to say, it was a most exciting and interesting trip, and I wanted so much to stay longer. But I had to come back home. I missed my family and my books.

NEIL GAIMAN
Coraline

And speaking of books, I recently read a very good one. It's called "Coraline" and it's written by Neil Gaiman. The story and the drawings are a little scary but there's a good lesson in the book.

It's the story of a girl named Coraline who, like me, loved to explore.

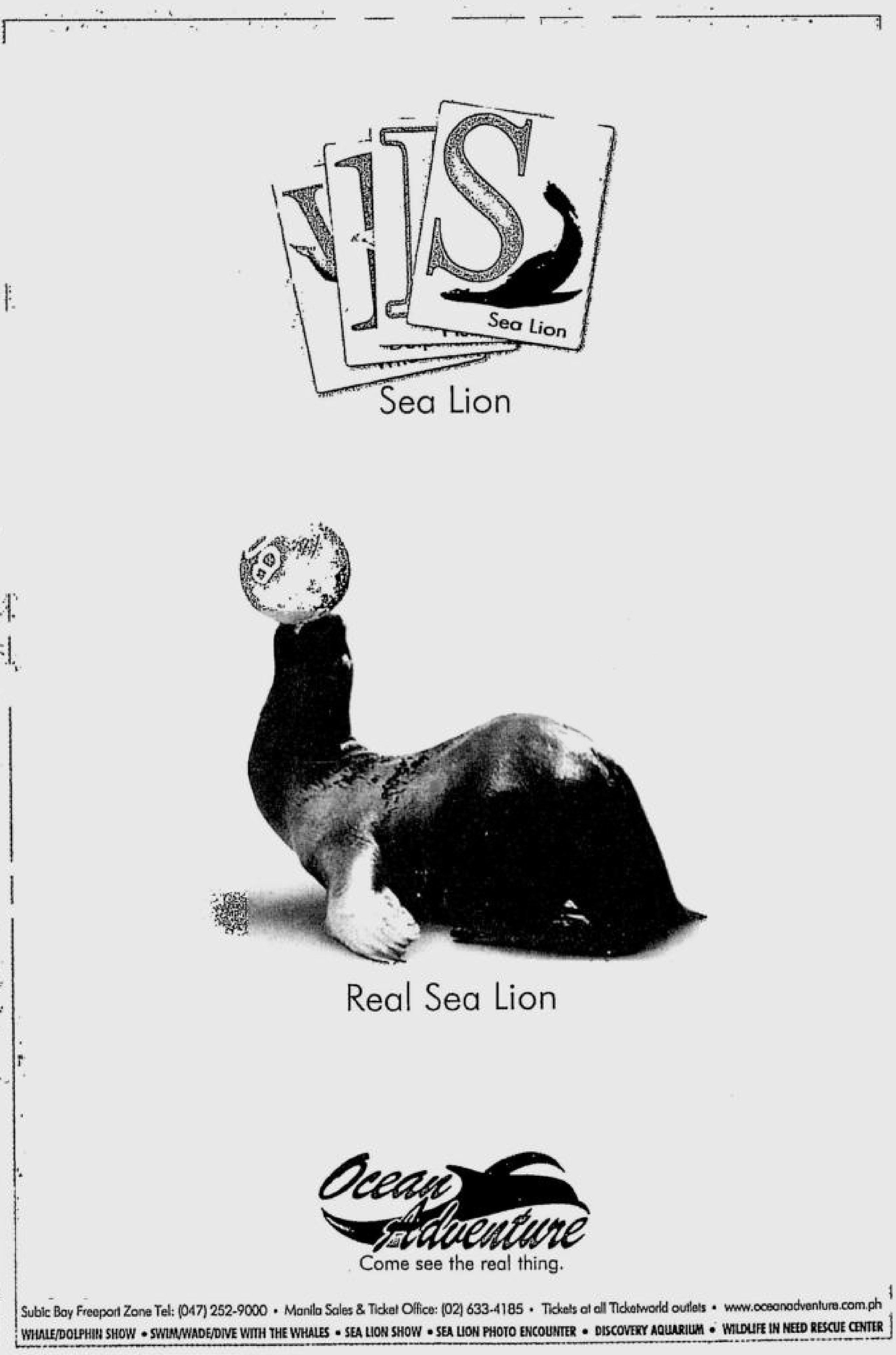
After moving into their new apartment, one that has 21 windows and 14 doors, Coraline quickly went exploring. She met their neighbors and one cat. She soon discovered that all the doors opened except one. This door had a brick wall behind it. Too bad she can't pass through cracks in walls like me!

Our ever curious Coraline soon finds the secret key and was able to unlock the passage through the wall. She finds another apartment just like the one she left. Only here, the food is tastier and the toys are unlike anything she's had before. However, there is another mother and another father, both of whom have buttons for eyes and scary white skin.

And they want to change Coraline to be like them! The book gets even more frightening when our heroine discovers that there are other children like her who are trapped behind a mirror.

Will Coraline be able to fight her other mother and save the souls of the lost children? Or will she stay in the other apartment where everything is new and interesting? I will not tell you because it's really much better for you to read what happens. It is really exciting and makes you want to clap for Coraline and hug her.

If it was me in the story, I would still squeeze my way back to the warmth and comfort of my family and home. My home may not be as exciting as my cousins' but it is where I feel snug, safe and where fellow *ipis* accept me for who I am.



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INQBOX

Win this *Inquirer T-shirt!

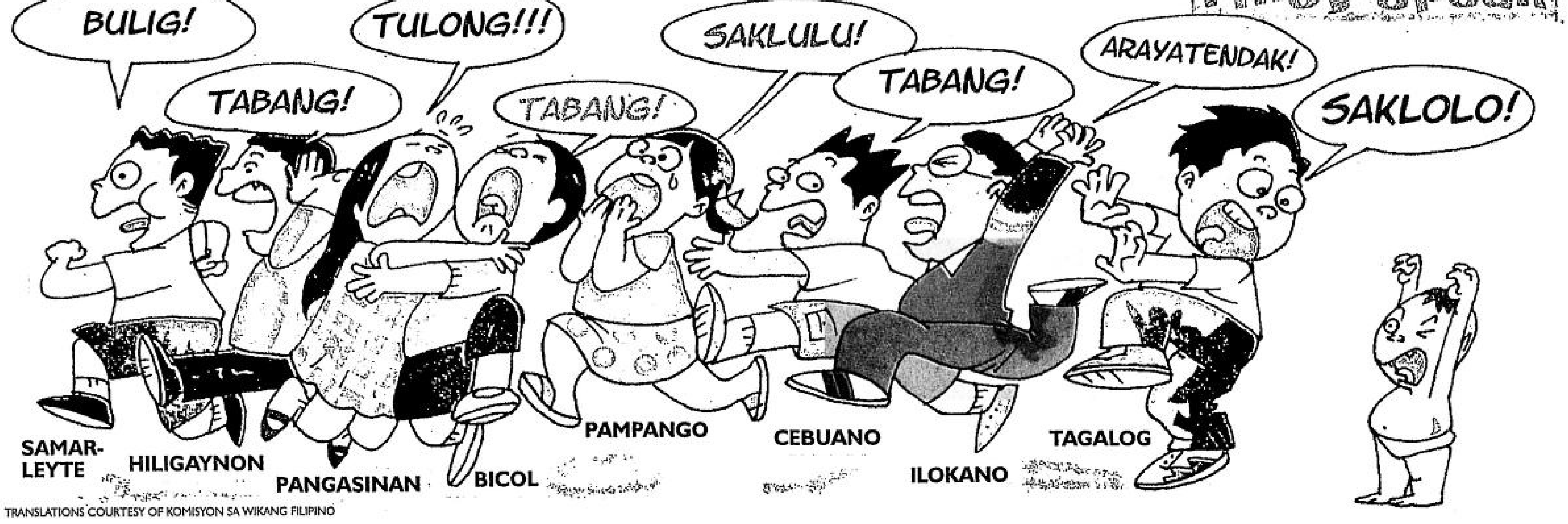
Junior Inquirer - Question of the Week

What do you look forward to in school?

Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer T-shirt!Ü*

Key in: inquirer JI name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Chay at 8978808 loc. 218. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

Pinoy-Speak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OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Announcement

CDRC WINNERS. Congrats to the winners of the Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata 2004 poster making contest held on Oct. 10. Major winners of Category A (7-9 years old) are Jennifer J. Cruz from P. Gomez Elementary School and Maryam Angela S. Ballaran from San Pablo Central Elem. School, Laguna. The finalists for Category A are Jamille Bianca Aguilar from MGC New Life Academy, Emmaneul H. Villegas of PWU-JASMS, Niko Sharbel Garcia from T. Tecson Elem. School and Sean Philip N. Palegar from Tagkawayan Central Elem. School, Quezon. In Category B (10-12 years old), Dale M. Erispe of A.H. Lacson Elem. School and Jayson James F. Muñoz of Baliwasan Central Elem. School, Zamboanga City bagged the major prizes. The finalists for Category B are Airish D. Sevilla and Mark Anthony E. Talavera, both from Saplad Elem. School, Pampanga, Lorena Saivitri R. Villareal of Sta. Rosa Central Elem. School; and Grade 6 student Sev Yojnad B. Marcelo.

Davao...

(from page 1)

do not have any mynahs since the entertaining birds are not bred but taken from the forest.

Want to meet these beautiful Davao birds? Shows are at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday. Get tickets online at www. malagosgarden.com or call 929-9310.

Batangas kids...

(from page 1)

robot finds its way through a maze and raises up flags as fast as it can.

For the wrestling event, two competing robots will push against each other, trying to flip or push the opponent out of the ring.

"It's much more challenging," said Pio.

Moments after winning the 3rd Philippine Robotics Olympiad last Oct. 1, Pio said that they would continue training to become even better.

FAITH has been joining the olympiad since it began in 2002. The annual event is spearheaded by Felta Multi-Media Inc. and the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology.

May the best robot win!

■ Lifestyle / C1
Monaco royal spent nearly entire visit with poor children

■ Sports / A26
RP chess team places 12th at Olympiad

■ Sunday Biz / B2
SM's Tessie Sy makes it again to Fortune's list of most powerful women

■ SIM / Q4
American priest, avid Noranian, marks 50 years of service to RP

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Lawmaker wants to hike taxes on 'nip-and-tuck' set

By Carlito Pablo

HE'S NOT going to be popular with the nip-tuck generation.

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LP, Palawan) has filed a bill seeking to impose a

LAWMAKER/ A21

MATA-TAX ANG BEAUTY KO!

Bin Laden warns US

Jolts campaign for presidential poll on Nov. 2

WASHINGTON—Osama bin Laden loomed large over the final whirlwind Saturday of the US presidential race as the two contenders sparred over how best to defeat the al-Qaida leader after he threatened new attacks in a videotape the day before.

Both candidates accused the other of playing politics with the war on terror following the airing by the Al-Jazeera television network of a videotape from the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, strikes on New York and Washington that left some 3,000 people dead.

In the videotape broadcast on Friday, Bin Laden made a direct, formal address to the American people, saying that the best way for Americans to avoid a repeat of the Sept. 11 attacks was to stop threatening Muslims' security.

The videotape of the Qaida leader was the first to surface in more than a year, and it was more formal and less confrontational than the few previous messages attributed to Bin Laden that emerged in the past three years.

Bin Laden did not explicitly threaten any new attacks in an excerpt of the videotape. But the appearance of the tape four days before the US election day injected the presence of al-Qaida and Bin Laden into a presidential campaign in which the threat of terrorism has weighed heavily.

In his statement, Bin Laden referred to both President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry by name, but he said the prospect of a future terrorist attack would depend not on the outcome of the election, but on concrete actions taken by the United States.

"Your security is not in the hands of Kerry or Bush or al-Qaida; your security is in your own hands," Bin Laden said. He added: "Any state that does not mess with our security has naturally guaranteed its own security."

At times gesturing emphatically, the Qaida leader wore a long gray beard, traditional white robes, a golden cloak and a turban. He gazed directly into the camera as he delivered his address, which he appeared to be reading from a text.

"Oh, American people, I am speaking to tell you about the ideal way to avoid another Manhattan, about war and its causes and results," he said. He added: "Despite entering the fourth year after Sept. 11, Bush is still deceiving you and hiding the truth from you, and therefore the reasons are still there to repeat what happened."

In contrast to his haggard appearance in his last videotaped message, broadcast on Sept. 10, 2003, Bin Laden appeared vigorous and healthy.

US intelligence officials, who indicated that they had obtained access to the entire videotape, said it appeared to have been made recently, possibly as recently as Sunday. US intelligence and law enforcement officials said an analysis by the CIA had indicated with "a high degree of confidence" that the tape was authentic.

BIN LADEN/ A21

REUTERS/AL JAZEERA TV

OSAMA BIN LADEN: The reasons are still there to repeat what happened.

Army hospital chief sacked for using old medicines

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMANDING officer of the Army's Fort Bonifacio General Hospital has been relieved on allegations that he had allowed expired medicines to be administered to soldiers injured in battle, the Armed Forces said yesterday.

But Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, chief of the AFP public information office, stressed that the use of expired medicines had neither resulted in the death of any soldier nor aggravated the condition of any patient.

Pascual said the relief of Col. William Yu was deemed effective on June 1 but had been approved on July 28 by Lt. Gen. Efren Abu, the then commanding general of the Army and now the AFP chief of staff.

He said Yu was likewise investigated for alleged misappropriation of refunds from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PHIC) and using spurious receipts for medical supplies.

Pascual also said the process was ongoing and that Yu was on "floating status."

But five complainants against Yu have also been relieved, he said.

Yu's relief came to light as a result of an RMN radio broadcast early yesterday of an interview with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

In the interview, Bunye was asked to comment on a nurse's taped statement that she and her colleagues had been told to use expired injectable antibiotics for the treatment of wounded soldiers and even post-surgery patients.

In response, Bunye said: "I believe [Defense] Secretary [Avelino] Cruz should look into this allegation to know if this is true or not.

"He knows how serious these allegations are, and I don't think it is right to just dismiss these outright."

ARMY/ A4

ROMY HOMILLADA

NEITHER creepy nor morbid: David L. Neese, superintendent, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Fort Bonifacio, cares for the final resting place of 17,206 US soldiers killed in WWII.

Living inside a cemetery, he fears the living more

By Jerome Aning

GETTING strange looks after mentioning your address is not usual. But then, most people do not live in a cemetery.

Daniel L. Neese, superintendent of the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, watches over the graves of the American war dead so that their sacrifices would continue to be remembered and honored.

The 51-year-old Neese, a former United States Air Force security policeman and Vietnam War veteran, chuckles when he recalls how new acquaintances would stare at him in disbelief whenever he extended an invitation to his house, which happens to be inside the cemetery.

"Most people don't live in a cemetery but then again it's all up here [in the mind]. Some people buy houses right next door," he said, gesturing to the exclusive gated communities and condominium high-rises surrounding the cemetery at Fort Bonifacio in Makati.

"Just because they're outside the gate it makes a big difference, while I live inside the gate," he said.

Many would regard cemetery caretakers as creepy or morbid creatures, a source of some amusement to Neese who in person is quite the opposite.

"They [caretakers] have that stigma. But I guess the difference is that this place is not just a cemetery but also a memorial. We don't have regular burials here. Everyone here is from the World War II era," he said.

The cemetery, over 61.5 hectares of gently rising ground on McKinley Road in the Fort Bonifacio development in Makati, is the final resting place of 17,206 Americans killed in the Western Pacific during World War II.

Neese heads a staff of one American assistant and 36 Filipinos, some of whom have been working in the cemetery for more than 20 years. Among them are several caretakers who handle the manual job of tending the plots.

LIVING/ A21

EDWIN BACASMAS

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL: A canopy of blue skies and a cityscape of Makati frame the exuberance of a child frolicking through the graveyard at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio. So will the living starting today flock in exuberant numbers to cemeteries all over the country to honor their dead and frolic through the remembered beauty of their lives.

Matatag boys of PMA '71: The ruling class of AFP, PNP

SPECIAL REPORT

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Philippine Military Academy's Matatag Class of 1971, the "ruling class" of the Armed Forces and Philippine National Police, is hogging the headlines these days.

It's not only because it has such luminaries as Gen. Narciso Abaya, the recently retired AFP chief of staff; PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan, a former senator and ex-rebel leader.

Other *mistahs* (classmates) are in the news as well, like former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, for his unexplained wealth, and PNP Director Eduardo Matillano, for keeping a luxury vehicle confiscated from a suspected drug trafficker.

The Matatag boys made up the graduating class the year then 2nd Lt. Victor Corpus—now a retired military intelligence chief—raided the PMA armory in December 1970. (As a consequence, the then PMA superintendent, Brig. Gen. Aurelio Ugalde, was relieved.)

They were starting their military and constabulary service when martial law was declared in 1972.

And as American author Alfred McCoy wrote in his book on PMA Classes 1940 and 1971 ("Closer Than Brothers: Manhood at the Philippine Military Academy," 1999), the "Matatags" were the instruments of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in instilling terror among suspected dissidents.

In 1986, the Reform the Armed Forces Movement formed by Honasan and other Matatag members led the defections from the Marcos regime that paved the way for the first Edsa uprising, which drove the dictator into exile.

But it was also RAM that mounted several coup attempts against the succeeding administration of President Corazon Aquino.

Even last year's failed mutiny in Makati City had overtones of Class 1971, with the mutineers saying they had been inspired by Honasan's vision and the apparent incorruptibility of Vice Adm. Ruben Domingo, also a *mistah*.

How did the Matatag become omnipresent in Philippine affairs?

"If you look at the composition of the class, you will see why," the PNP's Aglipay told the INQUIRER.

"It so happens that many of us have the brains. Look how many valedictorians we had," he said in jest.

Oscar Martinez received the Presidential Saber for topping the class. Honasan received the Chief of Staff Saber as cadet first captain, and Matillano, the Baguio Mayor Saber.

But McCoy wrote that in 1997, Martinez was named the principal in the theft of P1.75 billion from the AFP pension fund. A lawyer, he is a retired colonel and now works as a consultant abroad.

MATATAG/ A4

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